

volume 02







Land Acknowledgment:

The land on which our school community gathers is the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. Today there are no known survivors of the Awaswas Nation. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, comprised of the descendants of Indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is today working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands to honor the Awaswas and heal from historical trauma.

Amah (Aaa-Ma), Mutsun (Moot-sun), Uypi (You-P), Awaswas (Aaa-Was-Was)

A land acknowledgment is a statement that recognizes the history and presence of Indigenous peoples and their enduring relationship to their traditional homelands. Land acknowledgments help create awareness of the cultural erasure of Indigenous peoples and the processes of colonization and subjugation that have contributed to that erasure. Cabrillo community members are encouraged to read the land acknowledgment at the beginning of gatherings and events. Use of the land acknowledgment should be done respectfully and not become merely routine.

The class that created this zine is taught online and may be viewed online, which means it is right to extend our acknowledgments to all lands which we may work, study, and live. To learn more you can visit: Native-Land.ca



This publication was made possible by the Cabrillo College Foundation Visual Arts Endowed Fund. Thank you for your support.

About the Class: Latinx Images in Photo-Media

Examines the role of Latinx photography and lens-based media in shaping perspectives on race and ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, immigration status, and national identity in the United States. Critical analysis of minority and majority Latinx cultural representations of racial groups including lived experience and social struggles as presented in a wide range of digital image communication genres including social media, commercial photography and advertising, portraiture, social documentary, photojournalism, ethnographic images, and fine-art photography.

Instructor: Carmina Eliason

Cabrillo College
Aptos, California
Fall 2024

imágenes

volume 02

Zine Created by Students of
AP65 Latinx Images in Photo-Media
Fall 2024

It is hard to describe any single narrative of Latinx because as soon as you pin-point one common thread, you realize that this thread is actually made up of a network of knotted, woven, stitched, repaired, and entangled threads that complicate our stories. As unique as each of our histories are, we are also interconnected with stories beyond ourselves.

One of the most incredible parts of teaching this class and working with students to create this zine, is watching, in real-time, the ways that Latinx identities and cultural values are constructed, deconstructed, realized, imagined, and hoped for. Rather than picking out any one thread or sense of meaning out of all of this I prefer to point to the themes emerging in our class discussions and writings.

Some of the words which have simmered to the top of our minds this semester include:

familia / American Dream / memories / documentation / descendents / provoking / softness / shadows / borders / UFW / Chicano Civil Rights / rallies / blowouts / justice / agriculture / Native / self-worth / immigration / traditions / integration / pathways / strength / generational / enough / celebrations / pride / change / activism / collaboration / alive / sexuality / comunidad / struggle / roots / representation / altares / food / language / beauty / moments / vibrance / empowerment / passion / acceptance / power / access / friendship / rights / home / inclusion / sacrifice / support / honor / love

These words are only a small representation of the interwoven stories at our fingertips. I encourage us all to seek out our stories, even the ones we're afraid to look at. Someone else's well-being, including our own, may depend on it. As always, I am grateful to my students who will always be my favorite teachers.

Yours in art and storytelling,

Carmina Eliason
Photography Instructor
Cabrillo College

What is Latinx?

Continually Complicated (and sometimes Charged) Definitions



“Latinx” an overly simple definition

When I use Latinx in this class I will generally be referring to a person or group of people whose family history is rooted in a Spanish-speaking Latin American country.

This can include people Black, Brown, and Indigenous, European and Many Others from different family origins.

It's important to acknowledge that:

- They may not necessarily speak Spanish (or have family roots in Spain/Europe)
- These groups have overlapping and shared histories that are not all one thing, but may include their own conflicts and complexities
- Not everyone we might connect to Latinx history will use Latinx as an identifier (think of this word as a tree with multiple roots and branches that is also connected to other trees in a forest)

“Latinx” umbrella vs portal

We'll use the word **Latinx** as a portal and point of connection between cultural groups who have intersecting histories and identities.

I am not interested in excluding groups or people, rather I am interested in the connections between groups. If I say Latinx is one thing, and not another thing, then I am over-simplifying and creating an exclusive group, when what is marvelous about this topic is the multitudes of ways this term can illuminate our shared histories and invite us to understand one another better. Language is living and will always change.

While I don't want to force an umbrella term onto anyone, I will use it in ways that include messy, fuzzy edges, and also infinite connections that none of us will be able to see as individuals, but can better see it as a collective.

I invite you to do the same:

Let's use Latinx as a portal: a doorway, a welcoming one, through which we are invited take a step to move from the place we are now, to another that is beyond this one.

What is an image?

- A representation of a person, creature, place, object, form, idea, etc.
- An image is not the thing itself
- **Images can be physical** and represented and transmitted through physical means like: paintings, photographs, drawings, icons, prints, screens, etc.
- **Images can also be held in the mind and transmitted** through stories, news, myths, words, impressions, ideas, stereotypes, etc.



Artist: Yolanda Lopez

YouTube

Search



How To: Zines

Ariel Bissett 351K subscribers

Join Subscribe

6.2K

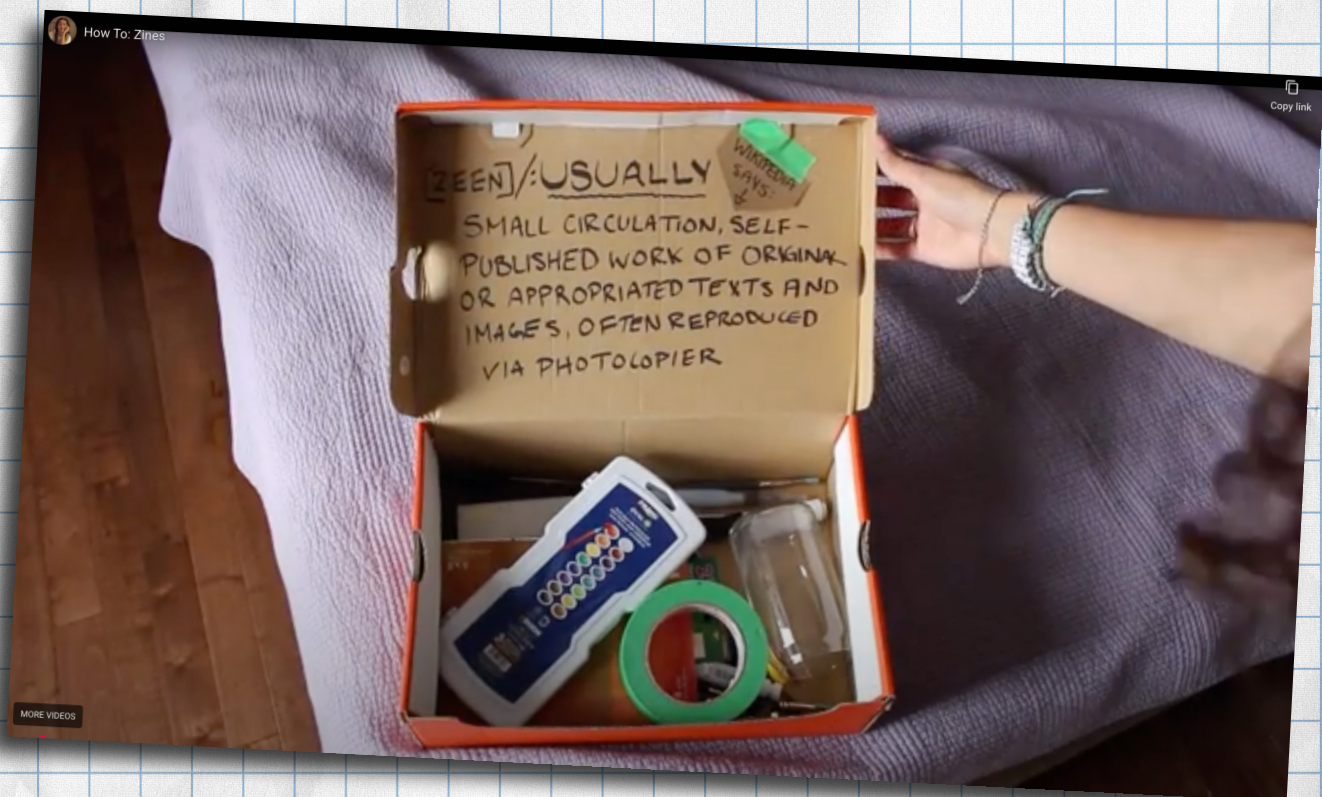
Share

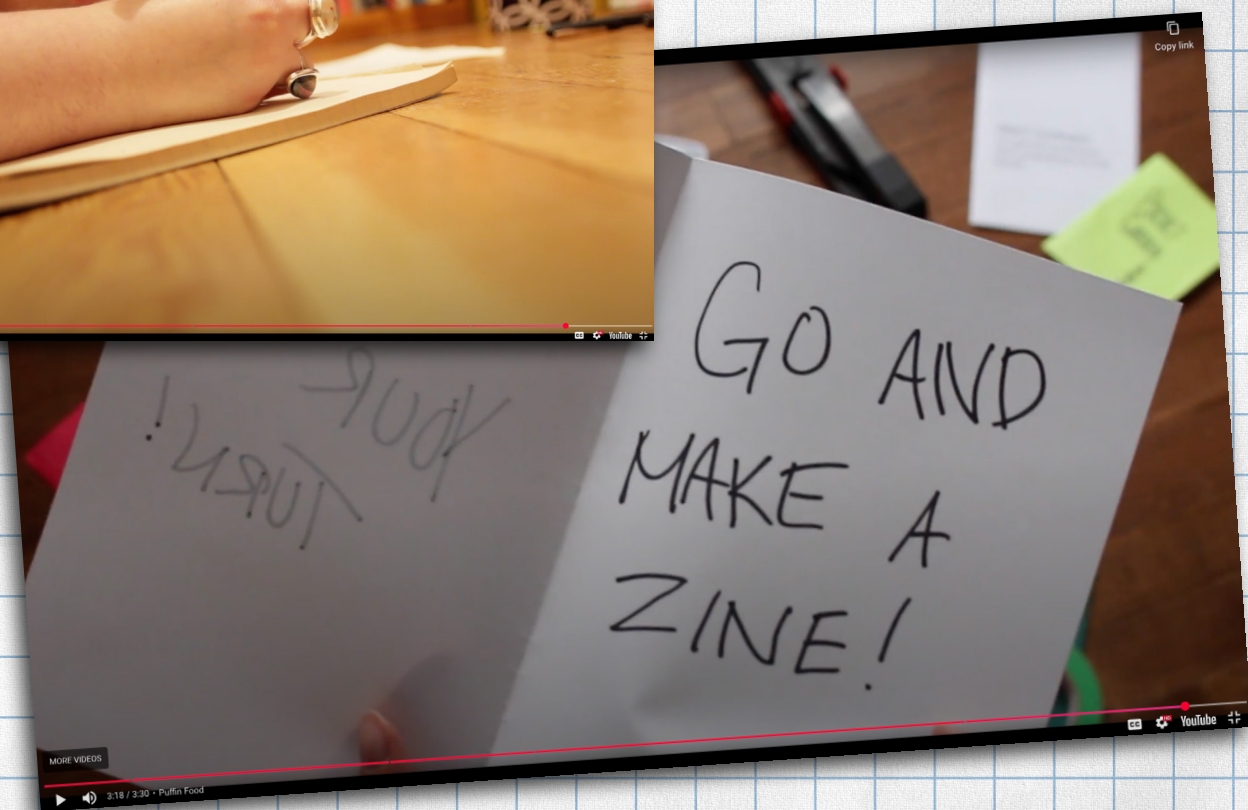
Ask

Download

170K views 9 years ago

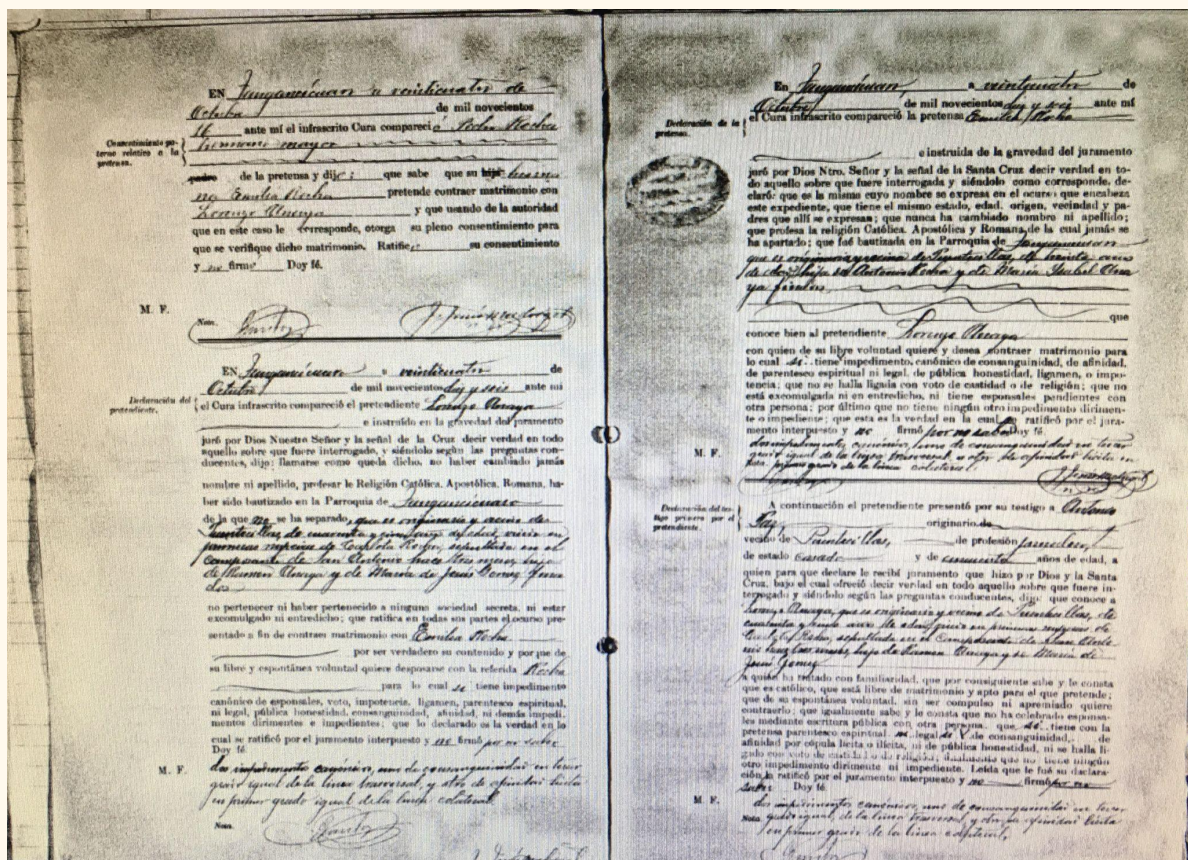
Zines are a way to harness the power of self-publishing to talk about things that are important to you but might not have a platform anywhere else. Here's a video to help you get started!





Los Archivos de Mi Familia

All archives (historical documents and photos) belong to Aaron Anaya



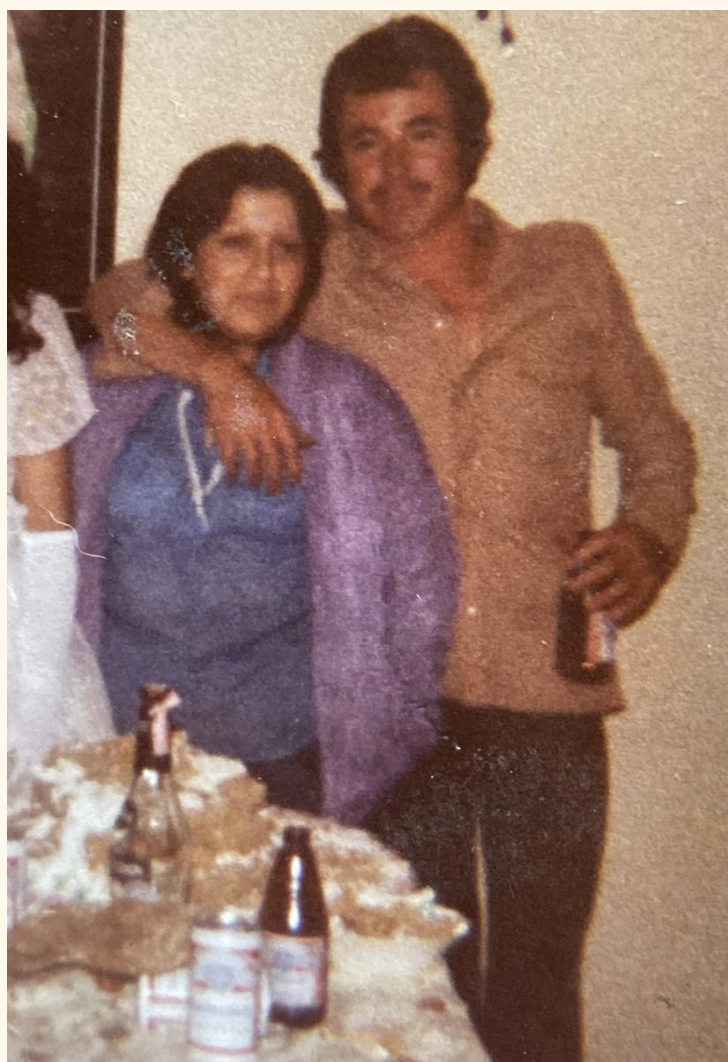
INTRODUCTION:

Our family narratives are often misinterpreted and many times forgotten by those wanting to replace our heritage and culture with their own as it is documented throughout history. It is important to represent our ancestry with pride and have historical evidence through the written records and images left behind. Latinx Photography provides the images of our *familias* who sacrificed leaving their native lands so their families could have a chance at the infamous “American Dream”. These are the stories of the people who raised me, to represent, us.



Mis Abuelos





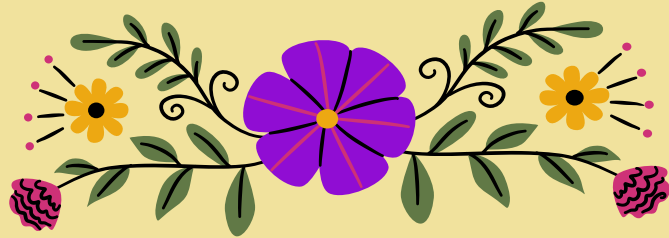
Mis Padres

Latinx Photography helps express the stories of my loved ones through art captured in a moment's time left for us to translate the memories as we wish. Photos included illustrate my Mexican family's written marriage documents from the 16th Century (pg.1), to my grandparents Josefina y Genaro Anaya (top photo pg2) and Catalina y Nicanor Fernandez early snapshots to their children, my parents Nena and Lelo enjoying a good time during their youth. Here I am, telling our stories through art and my creativity to continue my family's legacy as it is told through the many stories, videos, letters, documents, photos and written records left behind and being incorporated in the greater story of all us. The Latinx community as a whole are a necessary and important part of this country but let us never forget the country's our families represent. Whether you are from the here or there or anywhere in between, its important to know where you are going but let us never forget where we have been.



Latinx Photography helps maintain the history of our culture and heritage by documenting the past through historical documents which help reveal the lives, stories, and struggles that our *familias* have gone through from their migration from the South to the arrival in *El Norte*. The documents and photography assures that each branch in the family tree leaves behind who we were so that our future descendants can remember who they are. Primeramente, *Mexicanos*.

What is Latinx and What Does It Mean To Me?



To me, Latinx is a term that emphasizes the diverse identities and cultures of individuals from Latin American backgrounds. Before college, I rarely heard the term Latinx. Growing up, I always thought of myself as Chicana or Hispanic but the word Latinx was something new for me. I heard more about the term throughout college and began to understand it more and I also began to be more involved in Latinx clubs!



Giselle B. Rodriguez



Biography of Latin Artist

Muriel Hasbún

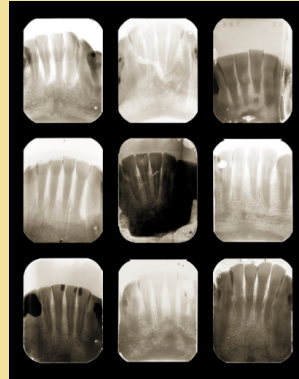


Muriel Hasbún, born in 1961 in San Salvador, El Salvador, is an influential artist who is known for her photography and mixed-media works that powerfully explore the themes of identity, migration, cultural heritage, and the impact of war. Hasbún has spent much of her life residing in Washington, D.C, where she has continued to create and exhibit her art.

Her work stands out for its unique approach that blends fine art photography with mixed media to form layered and provoking images. These images reflect her experiences and cultural heritage, especially related to the Salvadoran Civil War and the widespread migration it prompted. Hasbún makes connections to her roots that are reflected in her art by including personal history such as family archives and portraits as her main source. This approach helps her demonstrate the pain and strength of moving away from home and how that affects identity. She captures images of both pain and displacement.

The influence of Hasbún's Salvadoran heritage is always present in her art. Her background is essential because it shows a meaningful perspective, showing the struggles of people facing war and displacement. Her art often illustrates a connection between personal stories and social issues which shows her viewers the experiences she shares.

Hasbún's process includes using old family photos and turning them into art with mixed media and layering them. This makes her work more interesting.



"Untitled (from X post facto project), 2003–2006"

This artwork is a part of her larger series that focuses on memory and the aftermath of the war.



"Untitled (from Santos y Sombras project, 2011–2012)"

This artwork dives into the themes of cultural heritage and spirituality. It explores religious imagery and personal experience. She uses saints with elements of shadow and light to create a complex piece.



"Untitled (Encarnado, 2015–2016)"

This artwork focuses on the idea of the body as a symbol of strength and vulnerability.



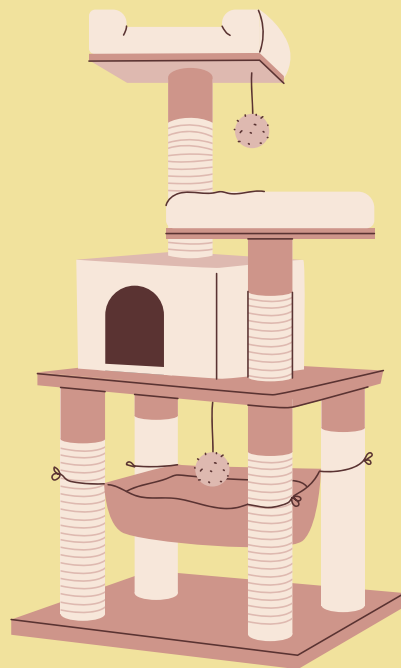


Paws in My Life

A collage of memories in black and white
Just me and my cat, my little Pako
From dorm to apartment, wherever I go
Together we've grown

From quiet times to playful chases
Soft purrs and tiny paws
Moments full of peace and cheer
A silent love that is always near

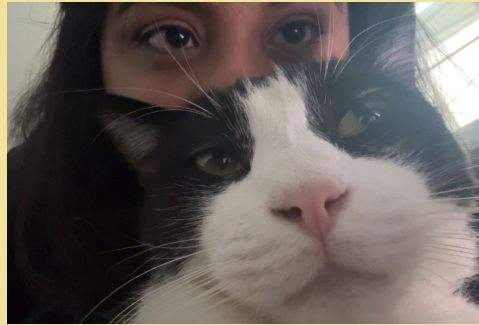
With a bond so true
Paws and memories, just us two
In shadows, my hands form a heart
A reflection of love in art



Giselle B. Rodriguez

The Culture I Come From and Me

About me: Hi! My name is Giselle Barajas-Rodriguez and I was born and raised in Watsonville. I am a 4th year Biomedical Engineering major at Cal Poly SLO; this semester I decided I wanted to stay home for a while so I ended up attending Cabrillo. I have always had a great interest in art but never pursued it. However, I enjoy taking art-related courses whenever I get the chance. This class has taught me several things including, what Latinx means, how Latinx artists demonstrate their stories through photography, and how we can connect the past to the present.



This is a picture of my nephew at my grandmothers house in Mexico. It was his first time there and he really enjoyed it there.



This is a picture of my house in Mexico that is still being built but is almost done.



Here is a picture of me in a shopping center in Colima, Mexico getting Starbucks.



This is the "ofrenda" me and my family created for this year's Dia de Los Muertos. In the pictures, we are honoring my grandfather, my great grandfather, my uncle, and a close friend.



This is one of Mexico's new Peso bill. There is an "ajolote" illustrated on the bill which is said to symbolize good luck.

Giselle B. Rodriguez



Jaime Permuth, Tarzan Lopez collection, 2007



citlali fabián, Mestiza, 2014

The

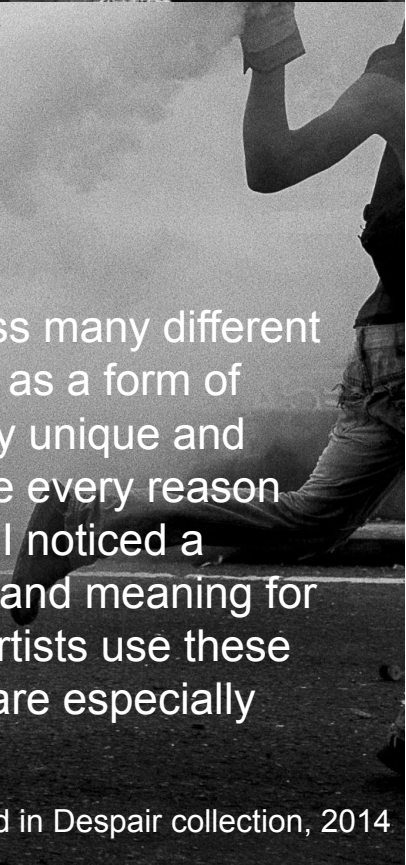
Big Picture

Of Latinx

Photography

by Lily Collins

Photography is a valued art form that is used to express many different experiences. The Latinx community uses photography as a form of expression for their community which is shown in many unique and defining ways. Although my 'big picture' doesn't include every reason and inspiration for what inspires these photographers, I noticed a pattern in inspiration that was cited for their reasoning and meaning for their work. Through my research I noticed that many artists use these inspirations but for the latinx community these values are especially important to their identity and goal for their art.



Fabiola Ferrero, Blurred in Despair collection, 2014

Family

Culture

Many Latinx photographers incorporate their family or depict the impact of families through their work. Each photograph depicts a story that would otherwise not be shared but through photography we can almost experience what the family is feeling and what struggles or achievements they have together. Culture is reflected on how people are raised and the community they are raised in. Because of cultural differences, and language barriers Latinx's otherwise isolated society is shared to others through the universal language of images. All these unique photographs show an assortment of feelings and circumstances but they all show how important family is to the latinx community.



Yael Martínez, The house that bleeds



Joseph Rodriguez/ 1933



Fabiola Ferrero, My Family Album

Many Latinx photographers use their work as a median for culture and recognition of the people and community they live in. These photographers show communities though diverse and unique mediums. They show the celebrations of people though embracing their heritage and people embrace themselves spreading positivity. Many photographs also depict hardship and injustices whether it be sexism, poverty, body dysmorphia, crimes, violence etc. Although there issues are not exclusive to the latinx community it is prevalent in their society just like any other society and is depicted through photographers and their photographs



Teresa Gutierrez,
Juarez, Mexico, 1992



Johis Alarcón, 2019

Heritage

Recognition



Angel Woman, Graciela Iturbide

History

Impact



Johis Alarcón, 2019



JAIME PERMUTH, A few simple rules, April 4, 2019



Antonio Garduño, 1914



Nemonte Nenquimo

History is best recorded through pictures, the impact that is seen through them whether happy and sad hold the history of how the present came to be whether it be good or bad experiences. Photographs can be used as hommages for the past. Without these photographs we cannot properly connect with the past. In the same way the photography of modern events and issues help people may not be directly involved in experience and bring awareness to these issues. Each photograph overtime becomes a part of history and is used to look back on as proof of history and build from as examples of how to better our futures.



Bio:Thalia Gochez

Thalia Gochez (1994-present) is a well known photographer from Pasadena CA. This journey began through taking fashion styling classes, she found her interest into photography when she collaborated with a photographer. Shortly after she bought a \$1 camera at a flea market and instantly began capturing shots of women.

Her work focuses on encouraging and uplifting Latinx people especially women. Throughout this Mexican-Salvadorian photographer, you can see various images that illustrates identity. Many of her work show Latinx features which makes her unique from the rest.

Source: Girl to Know. DNAMAG, 2024.

Link: <https://www.dnamag.co/home/girl-to-know-thalia-gochez>

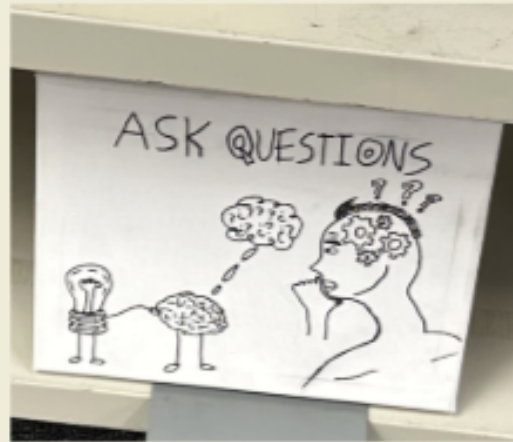
Summary:

Francisco Garcia

Throughout this course I have had the opportunity to dive in deeper and learn more than what I thought I already knew regarding latinx culture. To begin with, week 2 was interesting since it alligned with dia de los muertos. I had the opportunity to learn more about this tradition and how it really began. One of the most important and useful features of this class however, is that we have had the opportunity to research and learn about diffrent latinx artists such as photographers. Posting our work in a discussion post is very useful as well because we are able to see eachothers work and learn about the many artists out there. Personally, being part of the latinx community, this means alot to me since it is not very common to learn about successful people who make efforts to contribute in our everyday lives.

This also dates back to the 1960's- 70's as previously learned in week 3 of this course. Photographers for example not always had good reliable cameras, which forced them to get creative and find other alternatives to capture their work. Those who had cameras for example had only access to black and white imaging. Many issues throughout this era allowed for photographers to capture and keep these moments alive up to this day to express their struggle and day to day life at the time. Overall, I have learned alot in this class and enjoy it very much.





Although I don't consider myself a great artist like these other latinx influencers, I have captured some images and did some artwork myself. The first image was captured in Monterrey, CA during sunset. As I was walking near a famous spot known as Cannery Row, this is what I saw and I knew I had to capture this on my phone. Nowadays I even have this as one of my wallpapers. This is a great photo in my opinion that resembles how great nature and infrastructures can be.

The second image is a drawing I made in a communications class this fall semester of 2024. It shows the importance of asking questions and not being afraid to speak to understand an idea. I chose to make this because personally I live by this rule. I tend to ask questions when I am not too sure of something. This helps me understand everything and stay informed. I enjoyed doing this because I wanted to get my message out and encourage people to do the same. Currently this is posted inside The Hub building at Cabrillo College.

The last image was taken after I had washed my new motorcycle. This moment meant a lot to me after I had come to realization that anything we put our minds to is accomplishable. A couple months back I did not have any clue how to ride at all and would get frustrated after trying over and over again. With hard work and determination I was able to get better and purchase my own bike. I view this as motivation in the future when learning new skills, anything you put your mind to can be achieved with time.

GLOBAL WARMING:



Over the course of the years, global warming has had a huge impact on our planet. Ever since the pre-industrial period, human activities have increased Earth's global average temperature by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit. This number currently is still increasing by more 0.36 degrees Fahrenheit per decade.

Sea levels have begun to rise and flood current cities around the globe. Natural habitats of certain animals are also in danger if climate changes suddenly such as the glaciers melting leaving mammals such as polar bears or penguins in danger. Many more consequences are prone to happening if change is not made regarding this issue. Burning fossil fuels for example is a way we can all reduce to keep our planet cleaner and pass on a healthier Earth to future generations.

Sources:

MacMillan, A. Global warming 101. NRDC, 2021.

Link: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-warming-101#effects>

What is climate change? NASA, 2024.

Link: <https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/what-is-climate-change/>

About publisher:

Francisco Garcia is a student born and raised in Watsonville, CA. Being in a Mexican-American culture, he uses photography as a way to express and show what he feels or thinks. Francisco also focuses on major issues throughout the world to contribute and make the world a better place.



Adobe Express





Gael Garcia Flores

BIO: ABELLARDO MORELL

ABELARDO MORELL LIVED IN CUBA FOR 14 YEARS BEFORE IMMIGRATING TO BOSTON MACHATTUS WITH HIS FAMILY IN 1962. HE WAS BORN IN 1948, AND HIS FAMILY LEFT CUBA WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER, AFTER THE CUBAN REVOLUTION HIS FATHER WAS ACCUSED OF A TYPE OF PLOT HE WAS JAILED MANY TIMES. BEST KNOWN FOR CAMERA OBSCURA SERIES THE THEMES IN ABELARDO WORK WOULD DO IS TRANSFORMATION OF SPACE USE OF INDOOR SPACE LIGHT AND SHADOW PLAY .CAMERA OBSCURA TECHNIQUE IS ONE OF THE FIRST METHODS OF PHOTOGRAPHY, THE CAMERA OBSCURA HAD A BIG INFLUENCE ON ABELARDO STYLE. THIS TECHNIQUE HE USES HAS BEEN USED SINCE AGES TO CHANGE VIEWPOINTS AND SPACES IN UNIQUE WAYS.ABELARDO FOCUSES ON LANDSCAPES AND LIVING SPACES USED DAY BY DAY.

HE CREATES INTERESTING INDOOR SCENES THAT SHOW THE OUTSIDE LANDSCAPES PROJECTED INSIDE LIVING AREAS LIKE A ROOM.IN MY OPINION IT'S COVERS THE TOPICS LIKE MIGRATION, HOME, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SPACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE.ABELARDO WORKS OF ART ARE ON SHOWED IN WORLDWIDE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES.ABELARDO WOULD OCCASIONALLY USE MIXED MEDIA, SUCH AS PAINTINGS, WITH HIS PHOTOS.

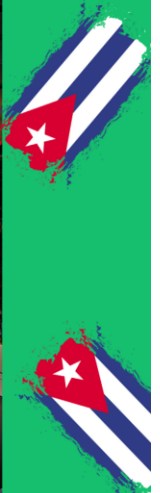


SOURCES

ONLINE WEBSITE:ABELARDO MORELL - CAMERA OBSCURAS. ABELARDO MORELL - CAMERA OBSCURAS - - EXHIBITIONS - DANZIGER GALLERY. (2007, APRIL 14). [HTTPS://WWW.DANZIGERGALLERY.COM/EXHIBITIONS/ABELARDO-MORELL-CAMERA-OBSCURAS?VIEW=SLIDER#6](https://www.danzigergallery.com/exhibitions/abelardo-morell-camera-obscuras?view=slider#6)

ONLINE WEBSITE:MORELL, A. (N.D.-B). ABOUT ABELARDO MORELL. ABELARDO MORELL. [HTTPS://WWW.ABELARDOMORELL.NET/ABOUT](https://www.abelardomorell.net/about)

ONLINE PODCAST:EP. 147: ABELARDO MORELL ON LIFE, WORK, HITCHCOCK AND THE TENT: NEAREST TRUTH: A PODCAST DEVOTED TO PHOTOGRAPHY. NEAREST TRUTH. (N.D.). [HTTPS://NEARESTTRUTH.COM/EPISODES/EP-147-ABELARDO-MORELL-ON-LIFE-WORK-HITCHCOCK-AND-THE-TENT/](https://nearesttruth.com/episodes/ep-147-abelardo-morell-on-life-work-hitchcock-and-the-tent/)



CAMERA OBSCURA: VIEW OF CENTRAL PARK LOOKING NORTH, FALL, 2020

IDENTITY ISSUE



When we started this Latinx class the first week I noticed we had an issue. The issue being that a lot of these of my classmates had an identity problem, most did not identify themselves as Mexicans because they felt like they were not “Mexican Enough”. Since I was small I identified as Mexican but this class gave me a lot of different terms that gave me a lot of confusion but I still identify as Mexican. Something that helped me a lot with my identity was listening to corridos since I was younger my tios would live with us and he had a truck that had a nice sound system each time he would wash it he would listen to corridos progresivos. Artist like Gerardo Ortiz, Noel Torres, Revolver Cannabis etc these types of corridos are kinda violent and explicit they talk about things that go on in Mexico. During my years of elementary school I was embarrassed of telling my classmates what I listened to since I had only been around corridos, romanticas and spanish music because it was the only type of music that would be listened to in my household and around me. I believe music is a big part of your culture and identity I learned that I shouldn't have been ashamed or embarrassed of the music I listen to because it is your culture and your roots that you are representing. Personally music helped me a lot with my identity there are plenty of methods to help with identity.

Mexican Music

As time passes music evolves, new artists blow up and some fall off. Corridos Progresivos and Corridos Alterados were an era from 2010. They were usually played with accordion and tuba as the bass, drums were added and an instrument called the bajo sexto or bajo quinto did the armonia. Around 2014 a different type of music of corridos came out it was when Ariel Camacho had started the music had requinto 12 string guitar, a harmonia 6 string guitar and tuba as the bass. These corridos are very similar to corridos progresivos but what changed was the instruments played. This type of music was called musica sierrreña, this music was the music who inspired a lot of the new artists like Peso Pluma, Fuerza Regida, Junior H and a lot more because of him we have corridos tumbados. Corridos Tumbados are what is most listened to today these songs come with a lot of the same instruments of the other ones just that these artists added tololoche or bass guitar for the bass and trombone for the melodies. There is a lot of Spanish music like Grupo Norteño music which have accordion, bass guitar, drums and bajo sexto/bajo quinto this is what is popping a lot nowadays especially in TikTok I recommend listening to Los Alegres Del Baranco, Los Encinos De Sinaloa, Los Caimanes De Sinaloa and Los Canelos Jrs if you are interested in musica norteña. I recommend you listening to these songs if you like.

Corridos Progresivos/Corridos Alterados

• El Alacran Trabado - Regulo Caro • La Guanabana - Noel Torres • El Comando Del Diablo - Gerardo Ortiz ft Noel Torres • Aquiles Afrimo - Gerardo Ortiz • El Cartel De La Rana Gerardo Ortiz ft Jorge Santa Cruz • Antrax Soy Antrax Me Voy - Regulo Caro • La Caída Del Chikillo - Revolver Cannabis • El Plaga - Revolver Cannabis

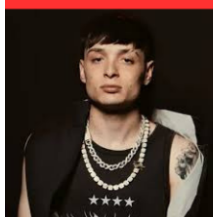
Musica Sierrreña

• El Karma - Ariel Camacho • La Vida Ruina - Ariel Camacho • Esperando Mi Juico - Virlan Garcia • El Sapo - Virlan Garcia • El Rey De Corazones - Ariel Camacho • El Toro Encartado - Ariel Camacho • Pobre O Criminal - Virlan Garcia • Mujeres De Tu Tipo - Adriell Favela • Recordando A Manuel - Lenin Ramirez • El Americano - Omar Ruiz • Aquí Seguimos De Pie - Luis R Conriquez

Corridos Tumbados

• El Azul - Peso Pluma • El Trusito - Peso Pluma • CH Y La Pizza - Fuerza Regida ft Natanel Cano • Por La 714 - Junior H • Atrapado En Un Sueño - Junior H • Excesos - Fuerza Regida • El Lokeron - Tito Doble P • En París - Cachito ft Junior H • Chino - Tito Doble P • PRC - Peso Pluma ft Natanel Cano • Los Collares - Oscar Maydon • Clave Ali - Junior H • Se Amerita - Junior H

There is still a lot of different music that wasn't added here!



About The Publisher: My name is Gael Garcia. I'm a student from Watsonville Ca who is majoring in Agriculture. I also play the tololoche. Music is a big passion of mine and I hope Mexican music can expand more as time goes by.



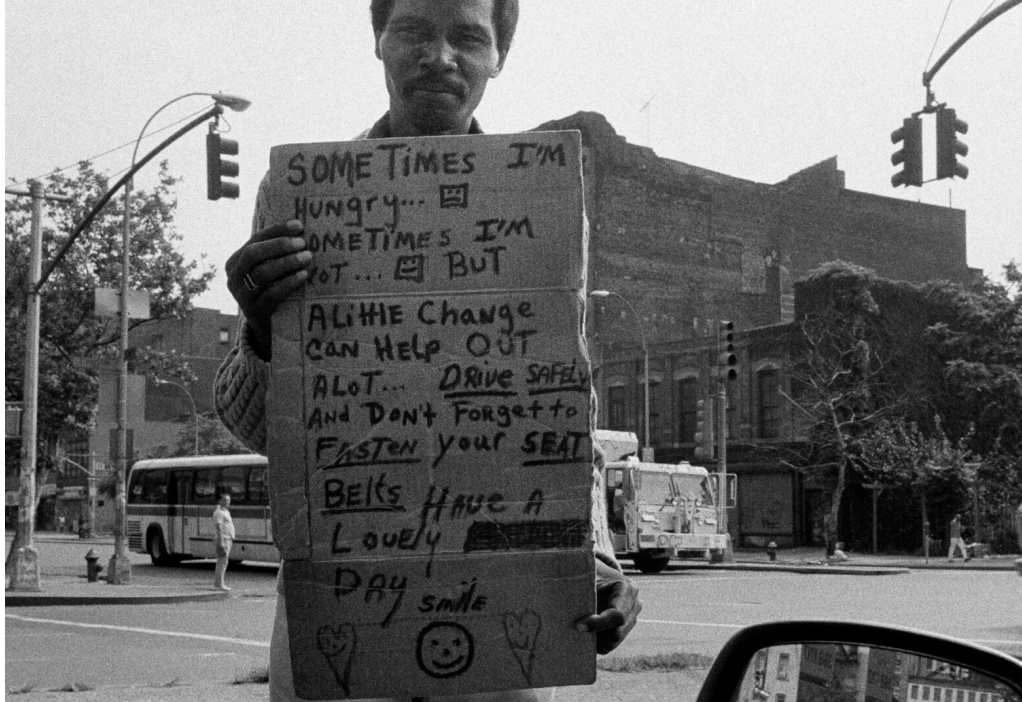
JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, BORN IN 1951 IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK TO A WORKING-CLASS PUERTO RICAN FAMILY, USES PHOTOGRAPHY TO CAPTURE MOMENTS, ENVIRONMENTS, AND PEOPLE THAT HE FEELS ARE RELEVANT TO HIS LIVED EXPERIENCES.

HE DOES THIS BY INTEGRATING HIMSELF INTO THE LIVES OF HIS SUBJECTS AND TAKING PICTURES AS THEY GO ABOUT THEIR DAYS. RODRIGUEZ FOCUSES ON A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS - AND HIS PHOTOGRAPHY IS STYLISTICALLY VARIED. HE IS BEST KNOWN, HOWEVER, FOR HIS SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE DOMESTIC URBAN LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA.



RODRIGUEZ CONT.



SHORT EXCERPT FROM AN ESSAY ON MEXICA SOCIAL STRUCTURE

WRITTEN BY ME ON 3/21/24 FOR CHICANO HISTORY

THE MEXICA, BETTER KNOWN AS THE FOUNDERS OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE, FEATURED A COMPLEX SOCIAL HIERARCHY BASED ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION. THE SOCIAL CLASSES, IN DESCENDING ORDER, WERE RULERS, CHIEFS, NOBLES, MERCHANTS, LUXURY ARTISANS, FREE COMMONERS, RURAL TENANTS, AND SLAVES. THESE GROUPS' POSITIONS WERE DETERMINED BY THEIR PERCEIVED CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIGION, MILITARY, OR COMMERCE. THE PEOPLE OFTEN GOT THEIR CLASS POSITIONS THROUGH BIRTHRIGHT, ALTHOUGH SOME LIMITED SOCIAL MOBILITY COULD BE OBTAINED THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE RULERS, CHIEFS, AND NOBLES WERE REQUIRED TO HAVE DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT THEY DESCENDED FROM ACAMAPICHTLI, THE FIRST MEXICA RULER. THIS SOCIAL SYSTEM RELIED ON THE SUBJUGATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THOSE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SOCIAL HIERARCHY BUT ALSO PROVIDED PATHWAYS FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEXICA SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

MULTIPLE AVENUES EXISTED FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY IN MEXICA SOCIETY, HOWEVER, THEY DIFFERED FOR NOBILITY AND COMMONERS. ONE OPTION AVAILABLE TO BOTH GROUPS WAS THROUGH PRIESTHOOD. INDIVIDUALS WOULD ATTEND A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AT A YOUNG AGE, AND FROM THERE THEY HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY. THIS BEING SAID, ONLY NOBLES REALISTICALLY HAD A CHANCE TO CLIMB TO THE HIGHEST RANKS, HOWEVER, THE PRIESTHOOD WAS STILL AN EXTREMELY PRESTIGIOUS POSITION IN MEXICA SOCIETY. SPECIFICALLY FOR COMMONERS, THE TWO MOST LIKELY PATHS FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY WERE MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS OR COMMERCE, ALTHOUGH BOTH HAD SIMILAR IMPLICATIONS IN MEXICA SOCIETY. FOR WARRIORS, THEIR STATUS WAS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS THEY CAPTURED AT WAR, WITH DIFFERENT TITLES AND RIGHTS PER THAT NUMBER. FOR THE MERCHANTS, THEIR STATUS WAS DETERMINED BY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THE MERCHANTS IN THE MEXICA EMPIRE WOULD OFTEN TRAVEL THROUGH UNFRIENDLY TERRITORIES AND AS A RESULT, FREQUENTLY SAW COMBAT. THOSE WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THESE PURSUITS WERE AWARDED HIGHER STATUS. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS IN BOTH COMMERCE AND WAR, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR COMMONERS TO FULLY JOIN THE NOBILITY.

BEFORE THE REIGN OF MOTECUHZOMA XOCOYOTZIN, NOBILITY WAS DETERMINED BY PROOF OF BIOLOGICAL LINEAGE FROM ACAMAPICHTLI, HOWEVER, XOCOYOTZIN CHANGED THIS SO THAT ONLY THOSE OF NOBLE BIRTH (BOTH THE FATHER AND MOTHER WERE OF NOBILITY) COULD BE INCLUDED. THOSE THAT ONLY HAD ONE PARENT OF NOBILITY WOULD BE CONSIDERED ILLEGITIMATE. AS A RESULT, THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN NOBILITY AND COMMONERS GREW MUCH MORE DISTINGUISHED. THE NOBILITY LEGITIMIZED THIS DISTINCTION THROUGH RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE AND LEGAL CODES. THEY CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE DESCENDANTS OF QUETZALCOATL, ONE OF THE MAJOR DEITIES OF THE MEXICAS. ADDITIONALLY, DURING THE REIGN OF MOTECUHZOMA ILHUICAMINA, LAWS WERE PASSED SPECIFYING WHAT MEMBERS OF EACH CLASS WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY NOBLES WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR CLOAKS AND SANDALS, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS BEING MADE FOR THOSE WHO HAD RECEIVED INJURIES IN WAR OR HAD OUTSTANDING MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS. OTHER LAWS SPECIFIED THAT ONLY NOBLES COULD CONSTRUCT HOUSES WITH TWO STORIES. FURTHERMORE, THE ROYAL PALACE HAD SEPARATE ROOMS FOR NOBLES AND COMMONERS AND EACH GROUP HAD ITS OWN COURT SYSTEM. THEY ALSO EXERTED STRONG CONTROL OVER KEY RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD AND OTHER LUXURY ITEMS LIKE GOLD. THIS BEING SAID, THE BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS FOR NOBLES WERE GREATER THAN THOSE OF COMMONERS, AND IF THEY BROKE ANY LAWS THEY WOULD BE PUNISHED HARSHLY.

JONAH GOMEZ

PREIRAS TEL 89-3391

PREIRAS GROCERY FRESH MEATS FRUITS & VEGETABLES COLD CUTS THE Coldest COLD S

SOURCES

PHOTOS:

RODRIGUEZ, JOSEPH. "PRACTICED PATIENCE: THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ." BROOKLYN EAGLE, 4 SEPT. 2019, [BROOKLYNEAGLE.COM/ARTICLES/2019/09/03/JOSEPH-RODRIGUEZ-PHOTOGRAPHER-PHOTOVILLE/](https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2019/09/03/joseph-rodriguez-photographer-photoville/). (1ST AND 6TH IMAGE)

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ESSAY:

ACUÑA, OCCUPIED AMERICA, A HISTORY OF CHICANOS

JONAH GOMEZ

What does Latinx mean to me?

La·tin·x

a person of Latin American origin or [descent](#) (used as a [gender-neutral](#) or [nonbinary](#) alternative to Latino or Latina).

When I think of Latinx, I visualize queer representation in a community where the language structure is gendered. That doesn't mean when I refer to a Latinx person I am labeling them as queer, more as using a broader term to define their identity without using masculine or feminine nouns and adjectives. I think the usage of Latinx isn't universally accepted yet, because most Americans cringe at the thought of anything gender neutral. Although it isn't too common in the media I consume, it's slow rise of popularity creates a safe usage of language for non-binary, genderqueer, and Latin American people who may be transitioning or thinking about gender identity.



Using Latinx as an identifying term for people with Latin heritage can be helpful for those who don't feel comfortable describing themselves as Mexican, Chicano, or Hispanic. Sometimes people don't want to use certain terms because they don't feel like they are "Mexican enough" and don't want to erase others' culture.



To be Californian is to benefit from the culture of a minority majority state and a large Latinx population. As a born and raised Californian it's clear that my life wouldn't be the same without the Latinx population that keeps the economy and food systems running but often goes unthanked. Latinx people in California have led social movements that have improved everyone's lives, such as Cesar Chavez. From the Canary Union strikes in Watsonville, to the ongoing and ever important struggle of rights of the exploited agricultural workers.

Photo sources:

The State of Latinx Photography, latinxproject.nyu.edu, February 19, 2021

Thalía Gomez Celebrates Latinx Heritage through Intimate Picture, officemagazine.net, February 08, 2022

Latinx Photography in the United States, hafny.org, September 07, 2021

Sophie Rivera

Sophie Rivera is of Puerto Rican-American descent. She was born June 1938, in The Bronx and died May 22, 2021 at the age of 82. She liked to take photos of her Puerto Rican neighbors and invite them into her studio for self portraits.

Showing the street life of Latinx Americans in New York was one of her main themes. She also focused on the bodily fluids of women and would take photos of her toilet or photos of her nude on the toilet. Her reflections on the female experience challenge the gross notions associated with womanhood and replaces it with a sense of intimacy. Personally I feel the shame is counteracted with beauty. Rivera's authenticity of Latin Americans comes out through her portraits and erases the violent stereotypes within the community. Her subjects convey emotions of serenity and realness that can be underrepresented in media showing Latinx citizens. Her photography focuses on marginalized groups that often do not have their voices heard. Through the casual everyday interactions her work portrays, we see a rather nuanced and unique side to the Latinx culture.



Photo Source:

Sophie Rivera, Photographer of Latin New York, Dies at 82. Nytimes.com. June 04, 2021

Tommy Johnson



Photo sources:

Boricua Lens: Sophie Rivera Portraits. Enfoco.org, October 13 2023-April 4 2024

Why Latinx photography is so important?

Latinx photography is extremely important when it comes to the drowning out of real life situations in the media. Activist movements such as protests can easily be seen as violent acts in public instead of peaceful demonstrations asking for human rights.



Misconception in the media of political controversies is extremely relevant today. Accurate representation of Latinx Americans through photography offer a platform for voices that aren't always heard, or are sometimes misconstrued. Photographers can also create a sense of validation for those Latinx communities to see themselves represented in a raw sense. With stereotypes stripped away, and the human form of a Latinx identity being shown in the light, marginalized groups see themselves in others and are inspired to proudly display their culture.



Photo Source:

"La Raza" A Powerful Vision of the Struggle of Chicano Rights, cnn.com, September 27, 2017

History, Reconsidered, news.UCSB.edu, March 01, 2021



Hello, my name is Felix. I have lived in and out of the Santa Cruz area for the better part of the last three decades. I love and enjoy all types of Street Art, from graffiti, murals and photography. I am a fan of different genres of music and have been able to see parts of the world through playing music. Along the way I've learned that it's not where you are from but where you find yourself at. I believe it is important to not just learn from books but from fully immersing yourself in life experiences. I invite you to scratch the surface on the following artists and resources featured in this issue and hopefully you will be inspired to do further research on not just them but other LatinX artists out there.

FELIX LOZANO

PHOTOGRAPHY



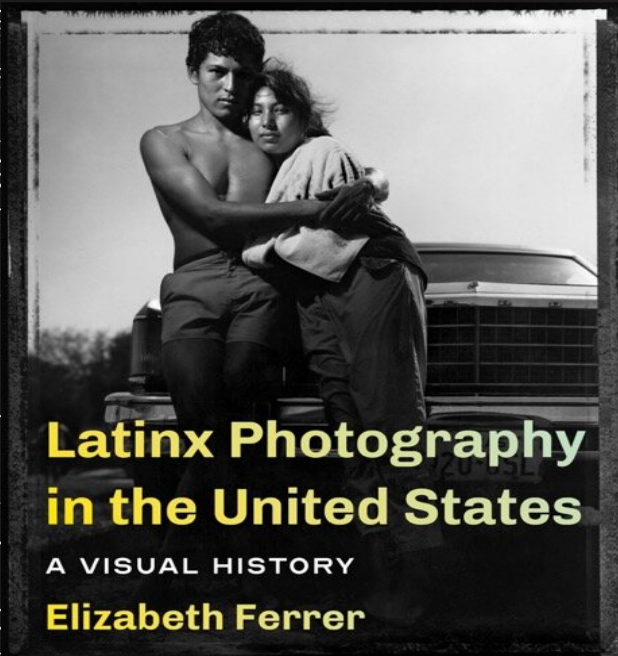
Luois Carlos Bernal

Louis Carlos Bernal (August 18, 1941 – August 18, 1993) was a Chicano American photographer whose works focused on social expression and developing a visual narrative, especially during the time of the Chicano Movement. Bernal's works contributed heavily to the Chicano Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Bernal's works grew from simply wanting to embrace his identity, to delving deeper into Chicano culture and community. He was considered to be the father of Chicano photography, because he was one of the first to approach his work as both a Chicano and an artist. Bernal's works and narratives centered on capturing people in their most intimate and humble surroundings



Graciela Iturbide

Graciela Iturbide is a Mexican photographer. Her work, which is mostly black and white, has been shown internationally and is included in many major museum collections such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and The J. Paul Getty Museum. Her self-portraits display innovation and show attention to detail. Throughout her career, she focused on the daily lives of indigenous people throughout Mexico. Through her photography, she documented the identity, sexuality, festivals, rituals, daily life, death, and roles of women. Iturbide's photographs share visual stories of cultures throughout the years. Her photography captures the differences between urban and rural life, the indigenous way of life, and modern life. Through her documentation, she focuses on understanding different social, political, and economic practices of Mexico.



The book is a collaboration of individual profiles of photographers from the early history of the photographic medium to the present. Elizabeth Ferrer introduces readers to Latinx portraitists, photojournalists, and documentarians and their legacies. Ferrer documents Latinx presence in photography in the 1960's through the 1970's

FELIX LOZANO

NUESTRAS PALABRAS TIENEN PODER



Los Crudos

Los Crudos is an American hardcore punk band from Chicago Illinois that has been active in the independent music scene from 1991 till current time. Los Crudos is a band that is formed of all Latino members that has inspired and paved the way for current Spanish speaking bands. Los Crudos music addresses social and political issues such as class, police brutality, homophobia backed by fast powerful loud music.



Nervous Gender

Nervous Gender is an American punk band founded in Los Angeles, California in 1978 by Gerardo Velazquez, Edward Stapleton, Phranc and Michael Ochoa. In the 1980's would be an inspiration as founders of the queercore movement. Nervous Gender is a synth rock band that is chaotic unhinged and confrontational in its performances. Nervous Gender pioneered the queer core movement with their early wave of synth punk or otherwise so-called "electro-punk" sound in Los Angeles.



Generacion Suicida

Generacion Suicida's is a band inspired by bands from the 1970's punk bands. Hailing from South Central L.A. the Spanish singing band has been around for the last 8 years. In just eight years together, the DIY four piece has already released a string of increasingly well-received records and performed in 24 countries across four continents.



Alicia Armendariz

Alicia "Alice" Armendariz (born 7th November 1958), also known as Alice Bag, is an American punk rock singer and author. She is the lead vocalist and co-founder of the Bags, one of the earliest punk bands to form in Los Angeles in the mid-1970s. Alice has been a staple in the punk rock music scene since the late 1970's. She has released several books such as Violence Girl: From East LA Rage to Hollywood Stage to several other publications. She has released several solo albums such as Alice Bag album in 2016 and her second album Blueprint 2018 and 2020's Sister Dynamite. In 2024, her work is being shown in Xican-a.o.x. Body a comprehensive group exhibition on the experiences and contributions by Chicano artists to art narratives from 1960s to the present time. The show was on view at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum, California, and the Pérez Art

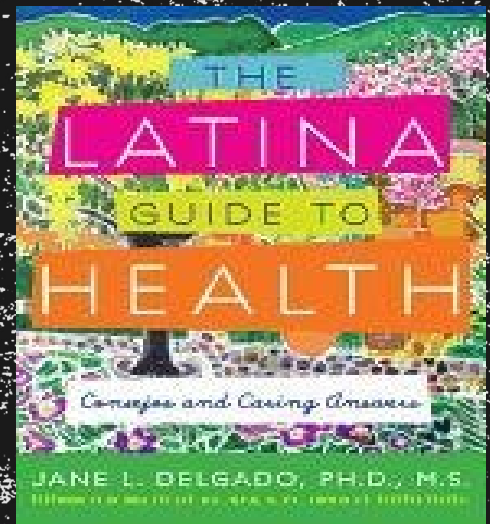
FELIX LOZANO

MUSIC ★ ART

COMUNIDAD



www.latinorebels.com
Media and News Website



Written by Dr. Jane L. Delgado, the nation's leading expert on Hispanic health, *The Latina Guide to Health* features cutting-edge medical information and advice for all Hispanic women. With a deep understanding of what it means to be a Latina in the U.S. today, Dr. Delgado offers practical advice on the health issues women face, separates myths from facts, and answers questions about what to do. She thoroughly discusses concerns for Latinas, including higher rates of arthritis, cervical cancer, depression, and diabetes, and the greater likelihood of being overweight. She also points to the good news: Latinas have lower rates of heart disease, stroke, and breast cancer, and live longer.

Your home for the most important and trusted resources for immigrants in the U.S.

www.informedimmigrant.com

Founded in 2016 Informed Immigrant is a resources website that is committed to providing prompt, reliable resources and support. Informed Immigrant's mission is to provide all undocumented immigrants with the knowledge and resources they need to feel prepared in our unpredictable political and enforcement environment.

FELIX LOZANO

A Look Into Latinx Photography

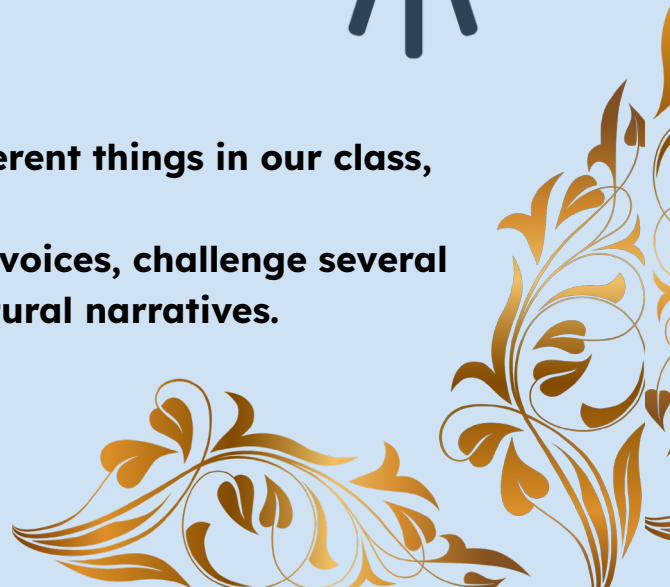
Presented by

Joseph Luciani



And why it matters.

In our entire time learning about several different things in our class, this specific theme stood out to me - Latinx photography/photographers amplify diverse voices, challenge several stereotypes and enrich understanding for cultural narratives.



Meet A Prime Example:



Manuel Acevedo is a 60 year old latinx photographer who currently resides in the bronx currently, but resided and was born in the Newark area of New Jersey. Like the pictures above, he has a distinct photography style, mostly in black and white, and he likes to represent in moment type photographs that make you feel more like you're there than any other photo could.



Who Am I?

My name is Joseph Luciani,
and I am 21 years old.
I like to read and write,
and I am constantly inspired
by people just
like Manuel acevedo.

He is a true master
at what he achieves,
and I chose him specifically for
this project because his photography
is truly just so unique to me,
it's a fantastic sense of style

and it doesn't feel surface level and each photo makes you think of why he took it,
and what exactly was happening in that moment.

Joseph Luciani



My Own Photography



I am not a photographer by any means, just sharing these to compare casual photos i took on my iphone on my trip to Italy with my family over the summer. I'm using these as an example and reflecting on what really goes on in a photograph which you'll see with my example of Manuel Acevedo's work right down below.



Acevedo's Photography

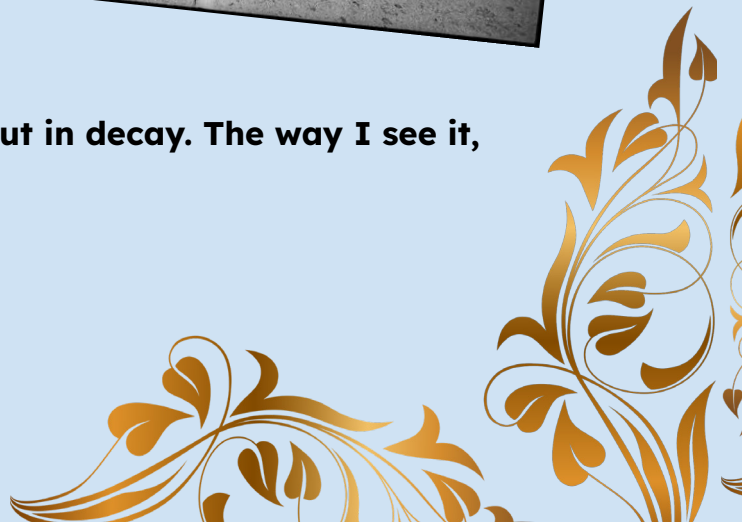


I put some of his work in the first Page, but here I really wanted to dive deep As to why his work stands out to me so much. To put it simply, his work feels more real Then REAL. it feels as if you're right there In the photograph, and he even explains a similar Feeling with this quote.



““In Newark, I can imagine a new building but in decay. The way I see it, the completion is relative.”

Joseph Luciani



Why The Representation Matters



It's honestly really important representation and attention needs to be given to Latinx photographers and Latinx photography, as such a thing calls attention to the stories of a segment which has either been greatly ignored or misinterpreted. Latinx photographers bring particular lenses to bear on their work: richness and diversity in their cultures, families, and life. Much more than just taking pictures, their photography speaks of stories of love, struggle, and resilience. Latinx voices have gone unrepresented for years and years within the mainstream of arts and media. A result of this is the stereotyping and misunderstanding of what it is really like for Latinx individuals. But a look at the work being done by Latinx photographers yields a much fuller and truer view of that world. It is a very significant representation for the newer generation, as they hardly see their lives depicted in art or history. It feels good to finally see people that look like you and have your same background being honored for their skills and creativity. It is proof that their stories and views mean so much. In this class, I was able to learn so much about these fascinating artists that I may have never seen, so I really appreciate this class for introducing me to some absolutely stellar creative individuals.

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<https://www.biourbanism.org/manuel-acevedo-newark-can-imagine-new-building-decay-way-see-completion-relative/>

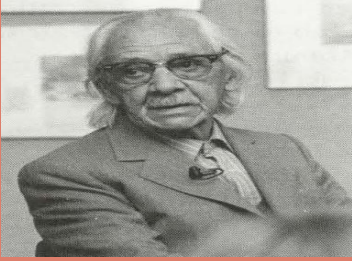
Joseph Luciani

What is Latinx?

To me, Latinx isn't just something you're born into—it's about the shared histories and traditions that shape who we are. It's not tied to a specific place but instead to a wider sense of identity and belonging, one that's built on the cultural practices we carry with us. Latinx also means having the freedom to express your Latin heritage in whatever way feels right to you. The term itself is open, inviting people to define what it means for them. The “x” in Latinx is a symbol of this openness, showing that identity is fluid and can change over time. Over the years, Latinx has become a word of strength, especially for younger generations. It allows us to proudly claim our heritage while making space for it to grow and change with us. For me, Latinx is personal—it's tied to my parents' roots in Michoacán, Mexico, and my own experiences growing up in Watsonville, California. Both parts of my story have shaped how I understand and live my Latinx identity.



Manuel Álvarez Bravo: A Master of Mexican Photography



Manuel Álvarez Bravo (1902–2002) is considered one of Mexico's greatest photographers and one of the most important figures in 20th-century Latin American photography. Born in Mexico City, Álvarez Bravo's work spans nearly 80 years and reflects his profound connection to the country's culture, traditions, and landscapes. His photography is renowned for its poetic and sometimes surreal qualities, often exploring themes of identity, death, social issues, and Mexican folklore. Álvarez Bravo's distinctive style combined elements of documentary photography with a deep artistic sensibility. He was influenced by the social movements of his time, as well as the work of European surrealists. His photographs often depict the everyday lives of ordinary Mexicans—farmers, workers, and indigenous people—but with a sense of mystery and transcendence that elevates them beyond mere documentary. Some of his most famous images, such as *The Labyrinth of Solitude* and *The Greased Wall*, evoke a strong sense of place while capturing the complexity of Mexican life. Throughout his career, Álvarez Bravo collaborated with many major cultural institutions and artists, and his work was widely exhibited internationally. His impact on Mexican visual culture cannot be overstated—his images have become iconic representations of Mexico's identity in the modern world. Today, his photographs remain a vital reference for understanding the intersection of culture, politics, and art in Latin America.



Sources:

- *The Art of Manuel Álvarez Bravo* - Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Archive [Manuel Álvarez BravoMoMAhttps://www.moma.org/artists/manuel-alvarez-bravo](https://www.moma.org/artists/manuel-alvarez-bravo)
- *Manuel Álvarez Bravo: Photographs* - Getty Research Institute [Manuel Álvarez BravoGetty Museumhttps://www.getty.edu/art/collection/person/manuel-alvarez-bravo](https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/person/manuel-alvarez-bravo)
- *Manuel Álvarez Bravo: A Legacy of Mexican Photography* -

Roots of Latinx Identity: Festivals and Their Meaning



Festivals are at the heart of Latinx culture, serving as important expressions of community, identity, and history. Beyond being joyous occasions, these celebrations are steeped in cultural and religious significance. Below are two key Latinx celebrations:

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

Día de los Muertos is a vibrant celebration that honors deceased loved ones by inviting their spirits to return and reunite with the living. It blends indigenous and Catholic traditions and includes:

- **Altars (Ofrendas):** Families set up altars with offerings like photos, candles, marigolds, and traditional foods like pan de muerto.
- **Public Gatherings:** Communities gather in cemeteries for processions, music, dancing, and face painting, where people paint their faces like decorative skulls (calaveras).
- **Food and Tradition:** Special foods are prepared and shared with family and the spirits of the departed.

Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria (Festival of the Virgin of Candelaria)

This celebration, primarily in Peru and Bolivia, honors the Virgin of Candelaria, merging Catholic and indigenous Andean beliefs. Key elements include:

- **Processions:** Devotees carry statues of the Virgin in colorful processions, singing hymns and praying for blessings.
- **Traditional Dance and Music:** Folk dances like the Diablada (devil's dance) showcase a mix of indigenous culture and Catholic influences.
- **Community Feasts:** Families prepare traditional dishes and share meals in honor of the Virgin.

Sources:

- Mexperience article, various editors (2023) - [The Virgin of Guadalupe and Juan Diego](#)
- The Daily Chela article by Roberto Camacho - [Virgen de Guadalupe History](#)
- Peace Corps article, various editors - [Día de la Independencia en México](#)

From Watsonville to My Roots: Understanding My Latinx Identity

About Me:

I grew up in Watsonville, California, a small town known for its agricultural roots and vibrant Latinx community. The neighborhoods I was surrounded by were predominantly Hispanic, with many families, like mine, having deep connections to Mexican culture. My parents are from Michoacán, Mexico, and their heritage, along with their fluency in Spanish, played a central role in shaping my understanding of what it means to be Latinx. Growing up, I was immersed in traditions, values, and customs that were passed down through generations, both in my family and in the larger community.

Attending Pajaro Valley High School helped me connect even more with my Latinx roots. I was surrounded by classmates from similar backgrounds—many of whom, like me, came from Mexican, Central American, and other Hispanic families. The sense of shared culture and experiences was palpable, and the friendships I made were grounded in our collective heritage.

Being part of a predominantly Hispanic town meant I was constantly exposed to cultural celebrations and traditions. I was invited to family gatherings and participated in events like Día de los Muertos, Las Posadas, and other holidays that honored our Mexican and Hispanic heritage. These experiences—celebrating together with food, music, and storytelling—allowed me to appreciate the importance of cultural traditions and how they create a sense of belonging.

Living in Watsonville, attending Pajaro Valley High, and being surrounded by predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods helped me embrace my Latinx identity. I've learned that being Latinx isn't just about the place you come from or the language you speak—it's about the community you're part of, the values you share, and the celebrations that bring people together. These experiences have instilled in me a deep sense of pride in my heritage and the Latinx culture that continues to shape who I am.



My uncle and grandfather at my grandfathers 70th birthday



HIGHLIGHTING FARMWORKERS



Latinx farm workers are the backbone of the U.S. agricultural industry, comprising about 83% of the workforce and playing a vital role in harvesting fruits, vegetables, and other crops that generate billions in revenue annually. Many come from Mexico and Central America, bringing a rich cultural heritage that influences food and community life in agricultural regions. Despite their critical contributions, farmworkers often face significant challenges, including low wages, harsh working conditions, exposure to extreme weather and limited access to healthcare. A large portion of farmworkers are undocumented, making them vulnerable to exploitation and limiting their legal protections. Advocacy groups like United Farm Workers (UFW) continue to fight for their rights, working to improve wages and conditions for these resilient and essential humans.

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://LAIST.COM/NEWS/CLIMATE-
ENVIRONMENT/WHY-CALIFORNIA-WORKERS-ARE-STILL-
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[HTTPS://UFW.ORG](https://ufw.org)

[HTTPS://GRIST.ORG/ARTICLE/FARMWORKERS-ARE-
DYING-FROM-EXTREME-HEAT/](https://grist.org/article/farmworkers-are-dying-from-extreme-heat/)



VANESSA NAVARRO

TRADITIONS

Traditions play a big role in Latinx families, serving as a bridge that connects generations and reinforces cultural identity. Traditions can honor ancestors, preserve language, and instill values like respect, unity, and gratitude. Celebrations like Dia de los Muertos or family gatherings create a sense of bonding for families. Traditions provide an opportunity to pass down stories, recipes, and rituals that keep history alive. For Latinx families traditions are not just events they're lifelines to our past and blueprints for our future.



These are my alters from the past two years. My family and I started doing our alters the past 7 years. After having my kids I wanted them to understand how beautiful this tradition is for our ancestors and keeping there spirits alive. Doing these alters always makes me feel so connected with my loved ones who has transitioned.

VANESSA NAVARRO

BIO: LAURA AGUILAR

Laura Aguilar (1959 - 2018) unique Chicana photographer born in San Gabriel, California and grew up in San Gabriel Valley. Laura's work explored themes of identity, body image, sexuality, and belonging. Her photography often centered on marginalized communities, including Latinx, LGBTQ+, and plus-sized individuals, challenging societal norms and embracing vulnerability. Aguilar's portraits such as those in her "Nature Self Portrait" series celebrated the human form while addressing personal and cultural struggles. Rooted in her intersectional identity her work highlighted the complexities of being a queer, Mexican American women. Today Aguilar's art is being celebrated as vital to both Chicana art and the broader discourse on representation and inclusivity. My favorite is " Three Eagles Flying"



"THREE EAGLES FLYING"

About the Contributor



Vanessa Navarro born in Covina, California, raised in Rialto, California. First Generation College Student. Vanessa is inspired by photography because it allows her and others to capture moments that tell powerful stories and preserve emotions that words often cannot express. With a Puerto Rican mother and a Mexican father, her heritage deeply influences her perspective, inspiring her to highlight the beauty of her photos. After her father was deported when she was in the 4th grade photography became a way for Vanessa to process her emotions, connect with her roots, and share the stories of her family and community through pictures.

VANESSA NAVARRO

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.LAURAAGUILARPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/WORKS](https://www.lauraaguilarphotography.com/works)

WHAT IS LATINX

*LA·TIN·X /LƏ'TĒNEKS,'LATŃEKS/
NOUN*

*A person of Latin American origin or descent
(used as a gender-neutral or nonbinary
alternative to Latino or Latina).*

Latinx is new for me. I've always considered myself latina/ Hispanic. I love however that latinx is a gender-neutral term that acknowledges all hispanic nations. My dad is mexican and has lived in Mexicali, Mexico since I was in 5th grade. My mom is Puerto Rican and I was born here in California. Learning more about what latinx means and stands for definitely makes me proud and grateful to be part of the Latinx Community.

-Vanessa Navarro



Pic: Myself At "Cultura In The Park" San Jose, Ca 2024

VANESSA NAVARRO

WHAT IS LATINX?



Latinx is a term that describes the ethnic background and identity of those descended or descended from people born in Latin America. It defines a culture and all the history of Latinx people.

Personally, I identify myself as Mexican-American but I have been familiarizing myself more and more with the Latinx term. It is another term that many feel comfortable using as it is also gender neutral and overall a very broad word for people all over Latin America.

LIZETTE REYES

[HTTPS://WWW.RUTGERS.EDU/NEWS/HISPANIC-HERITAGE-MONTH-2022](https://www.rutgers.edu/news/hispanic-heritage-month-2022)

LIZETTE REYES

PHOTOGRAPHY IN LATINX CULTURE

We learned about many different ways in which photography is important.

One that stood out in particular was that it can be used to document historical moments and their significance in society.

For instance, the Latinx Civil Rights and Labor of 1960's movement rose when people grew tired of the injustice occurring in Latinx communities. Many people came together to advocate and protest for a cease of police brutality, unfair wages, poor education, poor working conditions, and discrimination against Latinx people in general. Their goal was to stand up for their communities and unite together in hopes of changing the system.

Photography took a major role in this movement. Many Latinx photographers were able to document the protests and the impactful events that took place during this period of time. Photography served as inspiration and motivation for other people to join the movement and help create change.



Today, we are still scarred with the photographs of the George Floyd protests that took place all over the world. Countless of people were fighting for the same rights.

Regardless of their differences, these photographs were able to capture beautiful moments in history in which people come together to create change. Photography is a way for people to tell a story and capture great moments.



In Latinx culture we see photography used in many different ways...

[HTTPS://TIME.COM/5847967/GEORGE-FLOYD-PROTESTS-TRUMP/](https://time.com/5847967/george-floyd-protests-trump/)
[HTTPS://WWW.CINEMA.UCLA.EDU/BLOGS/ARCHIVE-BLOG/2022/08/29/CHICANO-MORATORIUM-DOCUMENT-YOUTH-LED-ACTIVISM-AND-POLICE-BRUTALITY](https://www.cinema.ucla.edu/blogs/archive-blog/2022/08/29/chicano-moratorium-document-youth-led-activism-and-police-brutality)

CHUY BENITEZ

TEXTBOOK: PAGES: 150-151. FERRER, ELIZABETH. *LATINX PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES: A VISUAL HISTORY*. UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS, 2021.

CHUY BENITEZ WEBSITE/PORTFOLIO [HTTPS://WWW.CHUYBENITEZ.COM/INDEX](https://www.chuybenitez.com/index)

ONLINE ARTICLE:

BORYGA, ANDREW. "PANORAMIC PHOTOS SHOW THE DECISIVE MINUTE." LENS BLOG,

[HTTPS://ARCHIVE.NYTIMES.COM/LENS.BLOGS.NYTIMES.COM/2015/01/08/PANORAMAS-PHOTOS-SHOW-THE-DECISIVE-MINUTE/#](https://archive.nytimes.com/lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/08/panoramas-photos-show-the-decisive-minute/#), ACCESSED 4 NOV. 2024.

ONLINE ARTICLE:

"LAWNDALE / CHUY BENITEZ." *LAWNDALE*, 14 JULY 2022, [HTTPS://LAWNDALEARTCENTER.ORG/EXHIBITION/CHUY-BENITEZ/](https://lawndaleartcenter.org/exhibition/chuy-benitez/).



Mariachi Sangre Joven, 2006



Painting homies, 2006

Chuy Benitez is another example of how photography is used amongst different photographers. Benitez was born on 1983 into a bi-national family (Mexico and U.S.). He grew up in El Paso, Texas right in the borderlands, and soon moved to Houston, Texas. His photographs were all about the Mexican culture and the way he felt about it. He tried grasping the vibrance and happy moments. Benitez usually photographed people or environments that he felt connected with the Mexican culture or sent a message about Mexican Americans. To do this, he would feel out the space and decide how he will fill the frame and to what extent. He focused on photography, specifically photos with a wider angle. He brought the digital panorama closer and took multiple photographs in succession. Benitez would later stitch them together seamlessly. Benitez displayed his photos online on his website, they have also been published and have been displayed in some exhibitions. His photographs first focused on the borderland life of people like his family. Many of them are people like him engaging in ordinary tasks.

LIZETTE REYES

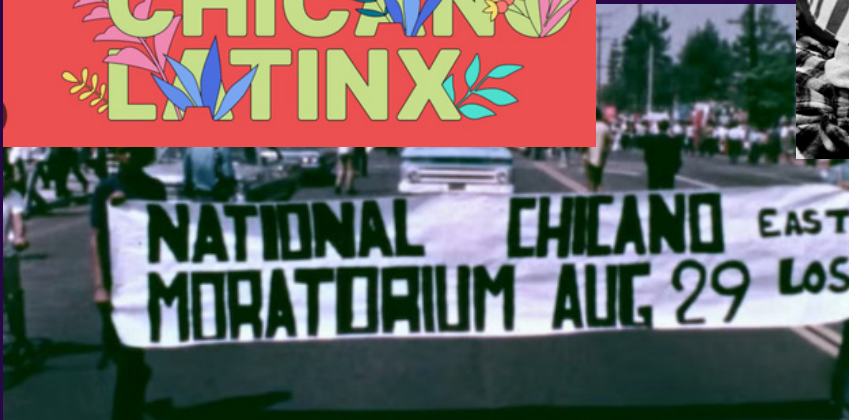
LIZETTE REYES

THE IMPACT

Throughout this class I was introduced to many different topics and lots of new information. It was exciting to learn about all the ways people express themselves through photography. It was very surprising to learn about all the different themes that different latinx photographers had.

My favorite part was learning about the impact of photography in historical movements. As a latinx girl myself, it felt good to learn and analyze all the different photos taken during Latinx Civil Rights movements. This class taught me that photography is almost like a book. The photographer gets to send a message or story through just one picture. It was truly amazing to see the diversity between their works.

This course helped me feel closer to my culture, by educating myself more about it. Not only that but getting to express myself through the creative assignments was nice.



Through Rubble and Rythm

Yuli Reyes

*In rubble-strewn lots, where the city forgot,
B-Boys move in sync, a pulsing afterthought.
Machismo-like armor, they dance through the
haze,
Skating past shadows of burned-out days.
David Gonzales sketches their light and their
strife,
Pinhole photography, snapshots of life.
Among ruins they rise, like beats from the
past,
In the heart of the city, their stories hold fast*

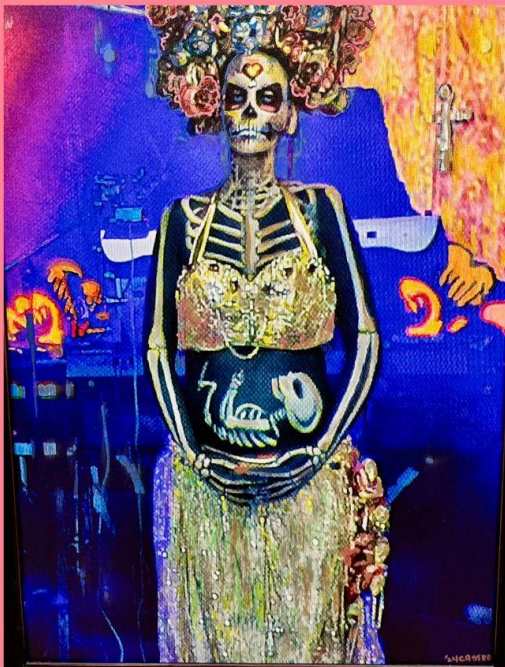


David Gonzales is a photographer known for capturing raw, authentic moments that explore identity, community, and culture. His emotionally rich, storytelling images inspire connection and highlight the depth of the human experience.

Yuli Reyes

Bio: Isabel Castro

Born in 1954 in Mexico City, Isabel Castro is a passionate advocate for political work, human justice, and the empowerment of women. Now residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, she focuses on women's rights, issues, and feminism. Her advocacy and contributions to her community have earned her numerous accolades. Isabel has received a Certificate of Special Congressional Commendation from United States Congresswoman Dina Titus, a Certificate of Commendation from US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from US Senator Jacky Rosen. Isabel has also been honored with special recognition from the Mexican Council of Las Vegas, presented by Jeremiah Guzmán Barrera, and a Certificate of Recognition from the Las Vegas Office of the City, presented by Councilwoman Olivia Diaz of Ward 3.



Sources:

<https://www.bronxdoc.org/exhibits/seis-del-sur-dispatches-from-home-by-six-nuyorican-photographers/detail>

<https://hammer.ucla.edu/radical-women/artists/isabel-castro#:~:text=The%20photographer%2C%20educator%2C%20journalist%2C%20and%20curator%20Isabel%20Castro,at%20the%20University%20of%20Southern%20California%2C%20Los%20Angeles.>

Yuli Reyes

I am Mexican and Salvadorian, I was born in California, and I've always had trouble figuring out "what I am" because I didn't understand. When taking surveys or filling out paperwork, do I check the box that says "Hispanic" or the box that says "Other"? I feel comfortable saying I'm Latinx; maybe that's not what I am 100% but this is what makes me feel comfortable, I know that the people around me also feel the same way, which gives me a sense of community. One of the first things this class taught me is that I don't have to fit into a box, I don't have to be "just" Mexican, I don't have to be "just" Salvadorian. I can be who I am proudly, and there's a whole community of people who are like me, a welcoming community of support, love and acceptance.



Yuli Reyes



This picture to the left was taken at the beach where my parents got married.



This picture was taken because this was the prettiest flower I have ever seen.

I take pictures for different reasons, some pictures of pretty things, pictures of things that mean something to me,, pictures are taken because they impact the photographer, even the smallest amount, even for a second.



About contributor: Yuli Reyes was born and raised in Santa Cruz California. She enjoys spending time with her family and listening to music. While there isnt a future in photography for her, she enjoys taking pictures of nature and things that leave an impact.



Dos Mundos y Un Corazón Triste

A young girl with a torn heart having to choose between her family and the love of her life.

She hoped for a world where she didn't have to leave one or the other behind.

A young girl with a torn heart freezing up as the clock ticks down to the last minute of the day.

Closing her eyes and praying on her knees so god can help her decide which to choose

A young girl with a tough decision to make that can alter her life forever or just in the moment.

She never realized how drastic reality was going to be after she said I DO.

A young girl with a new husband wanting to move North as her family stays behind crying.

Closing her eyes and praying on her knees as half of her world feels like its dying

A young girl with a new life, new home, new world, new people, and new dreams

Crying herself to sleep every night missing her home but gave her children a better life as a trade

A young girl forced to live in two different worlds with her broken heart

Romina Rodriguez



Top Left:
Fotógrafo/photographer
Chiapas, 1975

Top Right:
Madonna
Mexico, 1980

Bottom Left:
Mexico City, 1969

BIO: Graciela Iturbide

Graciela Iturbide was born in 1942 she is currently 82 years old. She is a photographer from Mexico and her work is based on black-and-white images of local people in her native country. She is most known for her work in the 1970's when she worked for the Instituto Nacional Indigenista. During her work with the Instituto Nacional Indigenista she documented and captured the many indigenous cultures. She has received many awards for her work especially in Oaxaca.

Graciela is a world wide established photographer and in 2009 she won the National Award of the Arts in Mexico City. As well as in the same year receiving the Honorary Doctorate of the Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, U.S

Romina Rodriguez

Reflections on Immigration and The Ongoing Fight For Human Rights



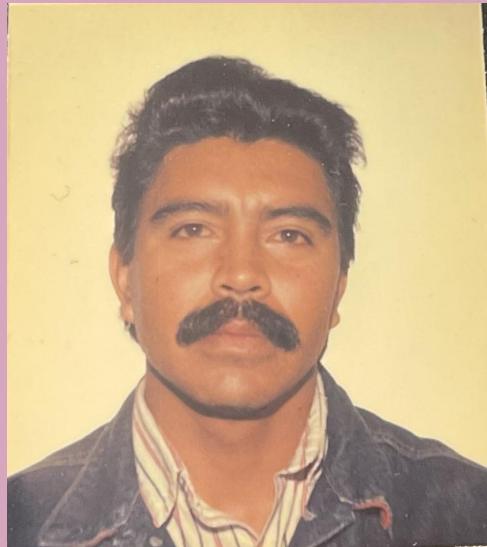
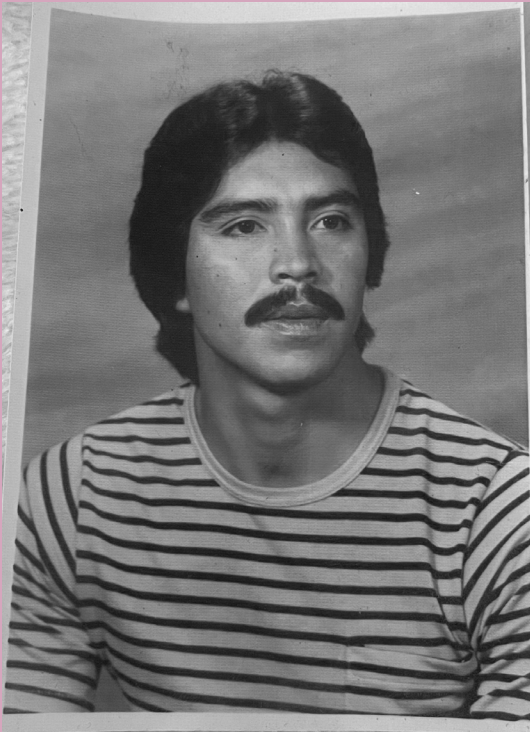
Since attending this class it has really opened my eyes to seeing how strong the Hispanic and Latino community is and how hard they have fought for the right to stay in land that was originally ours from the start. The Hispanic and Latino community have been faced for decades with scrutiny over immigration policies and reforms fighting against them, even though many work essential jobs helping communities and the economy.



Top Image: Immigrants Rights March, Washington D.C, Feb.16, 2017

Bottom Image: May Day, 2024 Immigration Rights (Labor Day)

Romina Rodriguez



You Were Not A Mirage

I tried to recall all the times we spoke, loved, played, and shared memorable moments.
Reserved and quiet but a single word held so much meaning that I can remember every syllable

I tried to recall all the times we spoke, loved, played, and shared memorable moments.
Maybe you didn't know how you were supposed to love me because your dad was hardly there

I tried to recall all the times we spoke, loved, played, and shared memorable moments.
Rocking back and forth on why you never had time to play although you worked 10 hour shifts

I tried to recall all the times we spoke, loved, played, and shared memorable moments.
As I grow older our conversations grow longer and you tell me you love me and are proud

I tried to recall all the times we spoke, loved, played, and shared memorable moments
I realized you were doing the best you could to adjust in a new country that was not your home
I look back at old pictures of you and see a different person I never recognized as a child
As I grow older I understand the privilege and rights you worked so hard to make sure I had
You were not a mirage, you were always there, and I'm grateful for your endless sacrifices.

About the Contributor:



Romina Rodriguez is a student at Cabrillo College and Vice President of the Human Services Club. Outside of school she dedicates herself to helping the agriculture/immigrant community of Watsonville through different nonprofits, such as being a low income sector representative for Freedom, Aptos, and La Selva Beach. As well as secretary to the board of directors at CAB. On her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and learning more about her roots as she gets older. Images on first and last page are Romina's parents.

William Rodriguez

What Is latinX

Latinx is a word used to describe people with roots in Latin America. It's a way to include everyone, no matter their gender, in one word. Unlike "Latino" (for men) or "Latina" (for women), Latinx is gender-neutral, which means it works for all genders, including non-binary people. I usually describe myself as Mexican-American as I was born here but my parents are from Mexico but there culture has grown on to me. As we grow older we will keep learning about new traditions and culture norms.



William Rodriguez

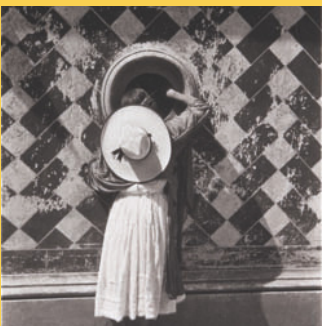
Bio: Manuel Álvarez Bravo

Manuel Álvarez Bravo (1902–2002) was a famous Mexican photographer and one of the most important artists of the 20th century. He was known for his black-and-white photos that showed everyday life in Mexico with a mix of realism and creativity. His pictures often explored Mexican culture, traditions, and social issues, like death, religion, and the beauty of simple moments.

Álvarez Bravo was one of the first Mexican photographers to be recognized around the world. He worked with well-known artists like Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. His photos earned many awards and are displayed in major museums like the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

Through his camera, Álvarez Bravo told powerful stories about life in Mexico. His work inspired many other artists and showed how art can explore culture, identity, and human experiences.

Cited Source: Álvarez Bravo, Manuel. The Museum of Modern Art, www.moma.org/artists/135.



William Rodriguez

Affordable Housing is a Human Right

Santa Cruz County is facing a serious housing crisis, with rent and home prices rising so fast that it has become one of the least affordable places in the U.S. Over 70% of renters in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing, and nearly 25% of renters pay over 75% of their income. This high rent

burden has led to Santa Cruz having one of the highest homelessness rates per capita in the country.

Other nearby areas, such as San Francisco, San Jose, and Monterey, are also struggling with high demand, not enough affordable housing, and rising prices. Rents in Santa Cruz often go above \$3,000 per month, and home prices have climbed past \$1.2 million. Housing is a basic human right because

having a stable home helps people access important things like education, healthcare, and job opportunities. Without affordable housing, people can end up homeless, which keeps them stuck in poverty and makes it hard to build a better future. Local groups like Housing Matters in Santa Cruz, Destination: Home in San Jose, and the SF Housing Rights Committee in San Francisco are working to solve this crisis. They offer help such as shelters, housing support, and advocate for renters' rights. People can help by supporting laws that increase affordable housing, volunteering or donating to these groups, and joining efforts to protect low-income renters and stop displacement.

- cited source: "No Place Like Home" Report by UCSC Institute for Social Transformation. UCSC Institute for Social Transformation, <https://transform.ucsc.edu/no-place-like-home/>.
- "Santa Cruz Called Least Affordable Small City in Nation." Santa Cruz Local, 4 May 2021, <https://santacruzlocal.org/2021/05/04/santa-cruz-called-least-affordable-small-city-in-nation/>





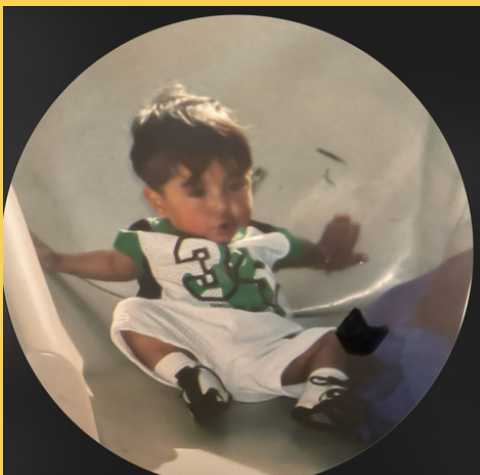
William Rodriguez

My story

Life wasn't always easy growing up Hispanic, but it taught me a lot about strength and family. My mom worked really hard to give us a better life. She always said, "Everything I do, I do for you." Back then, I didn't fully get what she meant, but now I see how much she gave up for us.

We moved nine times because of money problems. Every move meant new schools, new neighborhoods, and leaving behind friends. It was hard starting over so often, and sometimes it felt like we'd never have a place to call home. My mom was always there, though, working long hours—sometimes two jobs—so we'd have food on the table and a roof over our heads.

No matter how hard things got, my mom made sure we stayed connected to our culture. She'd cook tamales during the holidays and sing along to her favorite rancheras in the kitchen. Those moments reminded me that "home" wasn't just about where we lived. It was about being together, holding onto our roots, and finding joy in the small things.



Education Equity

Who are we?

The term used to identify as a person of Latin American descent or to reference cultural identity has changed throughout the years. For my mom growing up in the 70s, she identified as Chicana. I recently learned that Chicana/o term was used by communities that came together in shared culture, activism, and experience. For me growing up in the 90s, I identified as Latina. Although Latinx is a new term to me personally, I love that my children and future generations have a gender-neutral option that promotes inclusivity.



Individuals



Community



Family **Mexican American** **Latinx**



Lucy Sierra is a proud mother of three kind children and is happily married to her funny husband of 24 years. She is Assistant Vice President of Internal Audit at Bay Federal Credit Union, where she oversees the financial institution's audit function. Now that her two youngest children are in college and starting their own journey as independent adults, she is excited to be back in college to focus on her own education.

In addition to her infinite devotion to her family and career, Lucy is a Board Advisor and serves on the Finance Committee for Senderos, an organization that promotes Latino culture through music and dance. Senderos encourages higher education by providing free tutoring, awarding scholarships, fostering youth leadership, promoting bi-literacy, and creating opportunities for community service.

Lucilla Sierra

Walkouts for Education



Uncited Photographer



Milagro Cinemas

During the 1960s, Mictesuma Esparza, pictured above, participated in the Chicano Movement, advocating for the civil rights of Mexican Americans. He was one of the organizers of the 1968 Chicano Walkouts, where students demanded equal opportunities for education. It is estimated that more than 10,000 students walked out of school in protest. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mictesuma_Esparza



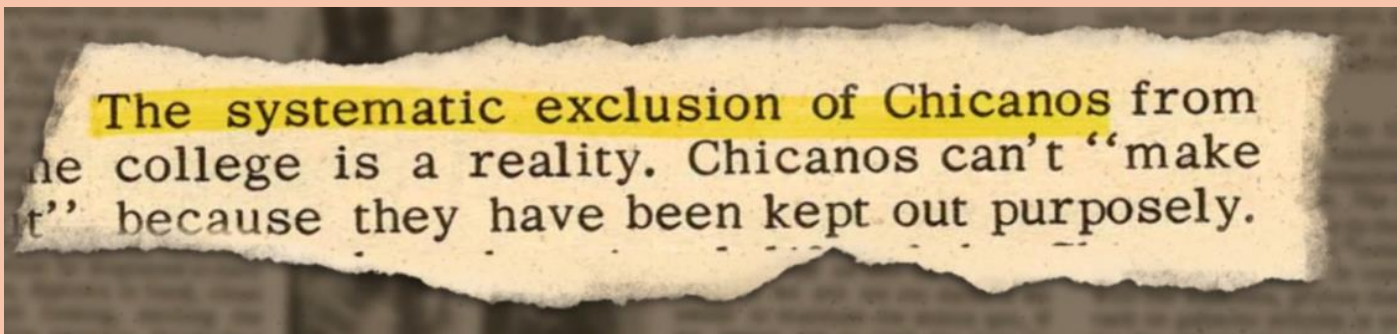
The sign with a 1/2 refers to the fact that five schools with a high enrollment of Chicano Students had a 50% dropout rate. The schools were Wilson, Garfield, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Belmont High Schools.

<https://unitedwayla.org/news/photos-1968-east-la-walkouts/>



Garfield High School principal appealing to students to return to classes, March 7th 1968. Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library.

<https://latinolosangeles.com/the-walkouts-of-1968-and-the-los-angeles-media-31471>.



How did we get here?



The historic walkouts ultimately changed how Mexican Americans were treated in public schools, resulting in changes to curriculum, an increase in acceptance to colleges, and so much more.

It makes me incredibly proud to see my own kids working towards their dreams through higher education. Andy is a 1st/2nd grade teacher at an elementary school in Santa Cruz County, and my daughters both attend San Jose State University. Alyssa is currently pursuing a master's degree in Kinesiology with a specialization in psychosocial aspects of sports, and Tori is working towards a bachelor's degree in public health.



College Resources:

Application for Federal Student Aid: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources: <https://www.cabrillo.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid-resources/>

California Dream Act Application: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>

Cabrillo College Puente Program: <https://www.cabrillo.edu/puente/>

Si Se Puede!

One of the most influential civil rights and labor activists, Dolores Huerta, continues to passionately advocate for social justice and focuses on empowerment and community. Through the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) she strives to create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.



Dolores Huerta Organizing Marches in
Coachella, CA
1969 George Ballis



Left: Lucy and her mom (Nubia) and daughter (Alyssa) with
Dolores Huerta after the Latino Role Models Conference in Santa Cruz
in March 2022



At 94 years old, Dolores Huerta continues to organize and engage in campaigns that influence legislation, particularly those that support equality and civil rights. As the founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) her vision included creating a space that is described as an **Organizing Institute** that provides training for activists from across the country involved in grassroots community organizing.

The DHF mission is to:

“Cultivate empowered volunteer organizations actively pursuing social justice.”

The DHF worked tirelessly to secure funding to build a Peace and Cultural Center, a multi-use campus located in Downtown Bakersfield, CA scheduled to break ground this year (2024).

Additionally, the foundation’s **Education Equity** team is dedicated to empowering youth, parents, and communities in the pursuit of equitable education by advocating for fair school district budgets, improving school climates and reducing suspension and expulsion rates, particularly for at-risk students.



DHF Organizing Academy	DHF Youth Center	DHF Auditorium and Outdoor Event Center
To train and develop organizers and organizations throughout the country.	For empowering and leadership development programs.	For cultural and community events as well as meeting spaces.

To Donate or to Subscribe to receive the DHF newsletter, visit: <https://doloreshuerta.org>

Lucilla Sierra

What is Latinx?

Latinx to me is of course in large part something people are born into but even more so about shared histories and traditions. It transcends past where somebody is born and is able to capture a broader spectrum of identity and belonging due to traditions practiced. Beyond this though, it places emphasis on the fact that however somebody may want to express their Latin origins, descent, and or ethnicity is more than welcome. This inclusivity is inherently encouraged in the title, “Latinx”, which further displays progressive lettering that pushes for a more dynamic nature of what it may mean to a particular person. All this without being confined to a singular meaning allowing overtime for the people’s identities to be shaped by lived experiences and voices of the people as a whole over time.

Overtime, Latinx has become a term of empowerment, allowing for younger generations to proudly claim their heritage while simultaneously continuing to shape it into something that aligns with current realities and one’s that are changing all the time. My interpretation of it is something that aligns with my own experiences, being tied into my mom’s rich cultural heritage she brought over from Guadalajara and exposed me to, as well as my personal experiences having lived my whole life in San Diego.





Bio:Máximo Rafael Colón

Born in 1950 Puerto Rico(Arecibo to be exact), he moved to New York City at a young age and worked hard through his work in the 70's and 80's to push for Social Justice across the City, State, and Country, while placing an emphasis on the importance of cultural identity for Latin people like himself. These works of his typically included Puerto Ricans in celebration, protest for social justice, and more often than not just people in their day to day life in an attempt to humanize these people in marginalized communities to the society's masses when published. The style of photography he used and what was seen most prominently was always black and white, and ranged broadly across documentary style street photography. These photos of his were featured steadily in magazines and galleries in the 70's all over the country but were most consistently seen in New York. In this time, the communities he's pushing for outreach to are those mostly seen in his town of New York, so with that and beyond the day to day lives seen in some images, much of his work revolves around political activism and protest. This doesn't necessarily push beyond, but in a different direction than his photos that solely serve the purpose of capturing a sense of cultural pride. A direction of resilience and strength.



Sources: Centro (Hunter College) - <https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/artists/maximo-rafael-colon/>

Maximo Rafael Website - <http://www.maximorafaelcolon.com/>

Pregones PRTT Article: "PERSISTENCIA - MÁXIMO COLÓN" - various editors none named

February 2020 - <https://pregonesprtt.org/persistencia-maximo-colon/>

The Integral Role of Festivals and Celebrations in Latinx Culture:



Festivals and celebrations hold vital roles in Latinx culture. Beyond being fun occasions for all, just about every single one is intertwined with identity, community, and History. Whether it be personal, or national, or beyond. These celebrations rooted in historical or religious significance often times blend latinx cultures.

Here's a couple celebrations i've become familiar with-

Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe:

- Involves pilgrimage to the Basilica in Mexico City as well as other local shrines (Often bringing religious heirlooms/objects and images of the Virgen de Guadalupe
- Masses, processions, and indigenous Dances
- Offerings of candles, flowers, food, etc.
- Family/community gatherings to share and prepare meals

Independencia de México:

- Marks
- Commemorates the start of Mexico's war with Spain for independence in 1810
- Serves as broader celebration of resilience and justice
- Reenactments of the Grito
- Parades including live music, dancing, fireworks and traditional Mexican dishes
- Symbolism of the Mexican Flag on full display

Sources: Mexperience article, various editors none named - 2023-

<https://www.mexperience.com/the-virgin-guadalupe-and-juan-diego/>

The Daily Chela article, Roberto Camacho - <https://www.dailychela.com/virgen-de-guadalupe-history/>

Peace Corps article, various editors -

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/mexico/stories/d%C3%AD-de-la-independencia-en-m%C3%A9xico-mexico-independencia-day/>

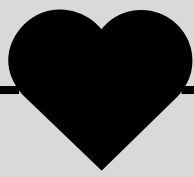
How I connect and what i've learned

About me:

Having grown up in San Diego and as a recent grad from Point Loma HS, the area I grew up in of course had an impact in the way that I was raised. Considering that this is a border city and has countless prominently Latinx neighborhoods, I became accustomed to being surrounded by the melting pot of Latinx cultures(although mostly Mexican). My mom's home city of Guadalajara and both my parents' fluidity in Spanish contributed to how I participated in such cultures. Besides this though I have had friends from Logan Heights, which being a mostly Mexican neighbourhood allowed for me to spend years in communities that would shape how I would come to interpret what it means to be Latinx. My view was shaped through events hosted by these friend's family's that I would attend as well as Holidays that I wouldn't have been exposed to if it weren't for my Mom or these other parents of my friends. Overall, i'd say that my experiences and those who have helped me achieve them marked a pivotal step in embracing my roots.

My Mother (left) and a collage of her experiences between Mexico and the U.S.





Her Impact

When I think of the word woman multiple words come up

Strong

Beautiful

Hardworking

Inspiring

And there are multiple woman who I think of

My mother Angelina

My friends Keziah and Lizette

And my aunt Angela



My mother Angelina is from San Juan Del Rio, Oaxaca. She dropped out of school at the age of 6 and began working with her siblings to bring back whatever she could back home. She left the state of Mexico at the age of 16 with my dad. While crossing she was pregnant with my older brother and risked everything in look for a better life. She has dedicated her life working in the fields to provide for me and my siblings and I honestly can say that I get my work ethic from her. Growing up I saw the struggles she had to go through. I remember a time where my dad went back to Mexico for 3 months and it was her all by herself taking care of me and my older brother. There were times where she wouldn't eat in order for me and my brother to have something in our stomachs. My mother has been the solid rock of our family and she holds everyone and everything together and I will forever be grateful I was able to be raised by her. She is truly one of the strongest people I know and I know everything she does is done for me and my family.



I have always felt like it was hard for me to create genuine friendships where being awkward is never a thing. My sophomore year of highschool I was put into the construction academy and stayed. It resulted in me meeting two of my biggest supporters through everything. I have known my friend Lizette since the sophomore year of highschool which was 3 years ago but its so crazy because it has honestly felt like we have known eachother for years. I have known Keziah since elementary school but we didnt get close up until sophomore year aswell. We have all been with eachother through a lot of things. Sadly my friend Lizette's house was one of the houses affected by the Pajaro floods. It was a rough time for her but we got through it with her and helped her out any way we could. When I lost my rabbit I was really going through a rough couple months but my friends did whatever they could to help me out. My friends make me a better person and they encourage me to be the best version of myself. Senior year I was hesitant to join the tennis team but they encouraged me to do so and I made the team and on the sidelines they were always there. They never missed a match.

Griselda Toledano Salvador



After my mom had me she had to quickly heal up and head back to work. My aunt Angela stepped up to take care of me as my mom headed back.

I remember getting up for school and her helping me get ready and then would take me to the bus stop. She would be there to pick me up after school with food made. She would help me out with my homework even if she didn't understand any of it. My aunt has no children but she always tells me how much she loves and cares for me as one of her own. I look up to my aunt a lot. She's a very strong and independent woman who I have also taken a lot of knowledge from. She never misses one of my events and is always open to help out with anything I need. Our relationship has always been strong and I cherish all the moments we have had.





Traditions

Brianda Trejo •

Dec 3 2024



Some traditions Latinx have, include the following, **Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead):** Honoring ancestors and loved ones who have passed away. **Quinceañeras:** Celebrating a girl's 15th birthday and transition to womanhood, **Navidad (Christmas) and Nochebuena:** Traditional Christmas Eve celebrations with family, food, and music, **Cinco de Mayo:** Commemorating Mexico's victory over French forces in 1862. Lastly, most importantly, September 16, Mexico's independence day.

Another type of traditions latinx have are **El Familismo:** Close-knit family ties and respect for elders and **La Comunidad:** Strong sense of community and neighborhood bonds. **Indigenous and Afro-Latinx spiritual practices:** Rich cultural heritage and traditions, such as **Curanderismo** and **Santería**. This is just some of the many traditions, it barely scratches the surface of the diverse and rich traditions within the Latinx community.



Bio Isabel castro

Born 1954 born in CDMX, raised in LA

Brianda Trejo • Dec 3 2024

As a feminist artist working in the 1970s and 1980s, she was engaged with issues related to women's rights. Her career has also included curatorial activities: in 1998 she was co curator of *Corridos sin Fronteras: A New World Ballad Tradition*, that was sponsored by a very famous Mexican band called "Los Tigres Del Norte". It was an exhibition organized at the Fowler Museum at UCLA and presented again in 2002 as a traveling exhibition with the support of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives, and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services. One of Castro's most successful series, *Women under Fire*, was produced after Castro discovered that Chicana women were sterilized during the 1960s and 1970s at Los Angeles County Medical Center without informed consent and by coercive methods.



References:

<https://app.smartify.org/en-GB/artists/isabel-castro>

My connection

Brianda Trejo • Dec 3 2024

My mom was only 15 years of age when she made her way to the United States, got caught by immigration two times yet never gave up to cross the border to chase the American dream. She had me at the age of 18, unfortunately she was never able to get an education or a proper income due to her legal status. As time went by she gave me a great life full of great childhood memories, an education, food on my table and roof on top of my head. Her american dream was not ideally what she thought it would be like. It's been full of disappointing moments during her legal process. I think I connect a lot to some of the topics especially about immigration and the fear people carry. Immigrants bring so much to this country, farm workers, landscapers or even house cleaners like my mom. Legal immigration, administered in a way that meets our country's needs, strengthens our economy, and improves our nation on the whole finds enormous support in every corner of the country. Unfortunately, the issue has become so politicized that common sense has been thrown out the window.



ACROSS BORDERS

Across borders, she carried me
A dream of home, a heart full of sea
My mothers journey, a path unsure
A sacrifice made, a love so pure
A woman of wonder, a heart of gold
She crossed the borders, with a story untold
With every challenge, she stood tall and strong
A single mother's love, that kept us moving a long



LATINX IMAGES IN PHOTO-MEDIA: Strategies Used by Latinx Civil and Labor Rights

The goals of the Latinx Civil and Labor Rights were meant to show the struggles that the marginalized population was experiencing. The inequality was brought to light for all to see, such as the living and labor conditions. The UFW in Central Valley of California was to me the catalyst of the rights movements beginning in 1962 before even the Black Panthers formation in Oakland in 1966 or the Young Lords in Chicago in 1968. These groups all formed within years from each other as a result of the eye-opening social and political conditions at the time. Photography played the one key role in pushing these groups forward as they sought to document the resistance to the status quo in their areas and in that time and even overseas as wars took place that disproportionately affected men of Latinx descent. It helped to provide official information to subscribers and evidence to serve as a record that was brought to the people by trusted members of their own communities; people of Latinx descent or those that were considered close allies. Printed and distributed through newspapers, posters, pamphlets and other paper-based print media. Pictures were of regular families, children at play, city streets, rallies, blowouts/walkouts, segregation, police aggression and brutality, political activists. Photography recorded demonstrations such as the Chicano Moratorium which started out as a peaceful and prideful march of thousands that ended in police chasing and beating any and everyone they could get their hands and batons on.

Connecting Past + Present



The UFW's powerful rallying call, "Sí Se Puede, Yes, We Can," came of the powerful assertiveness of the UFW's co-leader Dolores Huerta (above: gelatin silver print by Rudy Rodriguez, 1974)

"her tireless approach brought about the passage of key California legislation, including the 1963 extension of the Aid to Families for Dependent Children policy to California farmworkers and the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, guaranteeing farmworkers in the state the right to collective bargaining."

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/why-si-se-puede-was-the-winning-motto-for-the-united-farm-workers-180980274/>

Dolores Huerta advocates and fights for the improvement of conditions for farm workers.



Maricruz Ladino in a Salinas lettuce field when she appeared in the Frontline film "Rape in the Fields." (Andres Cediel/Frontline)

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11808267/farmworkers-cant-pick-crops-remotely-how-can-they-stay-safe>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/rape-in-the-fields/>

Maricruz Ladino is a farm worker living in Salinas, CA and came to light when she first spoke up about the rape she survived at the hands of a supervisor back in 2013. The article "Rape in the Fields" went viral and sparked the acknowledgment and spotlight of the nationwide epidemic. Nearly 85% of women report experiencing some form of sexual harassment in the workplace and 75% of it goes unreported for fear of retaliation in deportation or loss of job.

Both these women helped to spotlight a growing injustice in agriculture communities; for Dolores Huerta it was the ease with which foreman's at farm fields abused migrant workers and their lack of ability to fight back without repercussions. Maricruz Ladino tackled two things in separate articles; first in her 2013 interview where she spoke up about the rape culture in farm fields by supervisors and then in 2020 on the unsafe working conditions of farmworkers during the Covid pandemic.

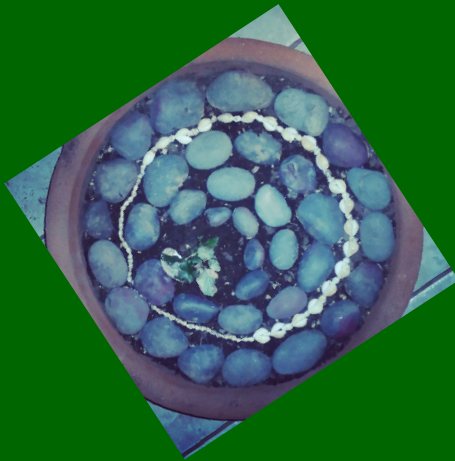
Without photography we wouldn't be able to see the faces of these brave women. Back in the 60's/70's photos were primarily in newspapers, magazines, books and basically paper printed, as these were the forms with which people consumed their news. Nowadays we find everything online and photos are generally digital although there are still many old film photographers out there. The thing that has stayed the same is that photography is widely used as documentary proof of what is really happening out in the world, the things we wouldn't otherwise hear about such as this news of Maricruz Ladino.

Photography conveys teachings to future generations. If it wasn't for photography, I might never have learned how to make my own altar or seen images of my own culture that moved me emotionally to want to learn more.

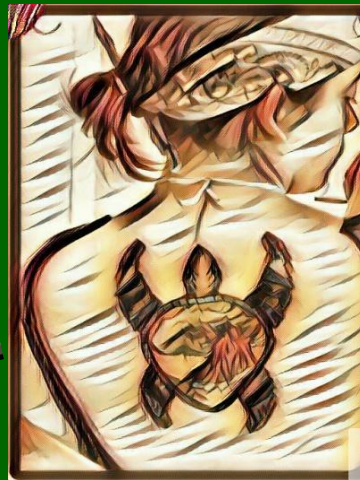


This is the Altar I keep at home. My mother and I started making them together (she has one at her home) a bit after my father passed about 21 years ago. It now has pictures of family, friends and even coworkers that have unfortunately passed. It started with visiting and decorating his and other family members graves on November 2nd. I was a member of the local Aztec Dance group White Hawk Ixtatutli and so I gathered traditions from them as well like burning sage and copal for cleansing. I would also perform on Dia De Los Muertos with the group when I was younger and for various ceremonies. I have since pieced together what is now my own yearly tradition. My mother and I didn't have family to teach us the tradition, we pieced it together by what we saw, as it became necessary for us to connect, I'm sorry if that is weird to understand, I don't know a better way to explain it. Not all of us have family living that hold the tradition still but having the most basic such as candles, marigolds, pan de muerto, drinks, food, toys and mementos, help showcase the reverence we have for the dead. It was through someone's photography pictures that I was able to find my connection and develop it.





If it wasn't for my mother's encouragement of me to explore my heritage at my own pace and my own way, I never would have become the confident woman I am today. When I started Danza Azteca, I was 7 years old and a gangly unsure little girl. When I did my Xilonen ceremony at 15 years old (Think Aztec version of a Quince), I had gone through years of dedication to the group in attending practices' and performances. When my Xilonen came and went it was an important right of passage for me because I had become a valued member of the group and gained life experience that continued to shape me. Performing at local powwows allowed me to connect with my Native American side which we later learned was Apache/Pima. I am a mixed blood and I'm proud of it. At least I have a connection to something and its mine. If life had not gone the way it did, I never would have found out these parts of myself that give me strength. I may not feel like I belong to any one group but at least I have my own sense of self-worth. Photography and Latinx artists are who and what created a strong foundation for me. Photography and art drew my mom in when she was in college. She took me when I was young with her to class and because I knew how to behave, I could sit and listen to the lectures too and it piqued my interest. Her learning became mine and without classes like this one I probably wouldn't have continued my college education because I found school boring after high school. Different forms of art and Anthropology which also uses a ton of photography for documentation; are what kept me going and now I'm set to get my A.A. this Spring!



What is *Latinx*?

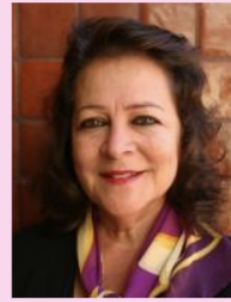
The term “Latinx” is relatively new to me, however after learning more about it in this class, I got a better understanding. To me, Latinx is a phrase used to represent those of Hispanic/Latin American descent or culture. It is a more inclusive way to be identified for those who are confused as what they can be referred as, or not comfortable in one or another. This is not entitled to a certain gender or culture, but rather brings a sense of inclusion and belonging for all.



Vyelka Ulloa-Gonzalez

Bio:

Barbara Carrasco



Barbara Carrasco is a mixed-media artist born in El Paso, Texas, in 1995. She was born to Mexican-American parents and grew up in the Mexican-American and African American community. Carrasco was the first woman editor of the UCLA newspaper *La Gente*. She participated with the UFW (United Farm Workers of America) organization in which she created banners and flyers. Her work consists of the makings of murals, representing civil rights, women rights, chicano rights and so much more.

<https://hammer.ucla.edu/radical-women/artists/barbara-carrasco>



Vyelka Ulloa-Gonzalez



Who am I?

Both of my parents were born in Mexico, specifically from the state of Jalisco. I've always been proud to be Mexican. I grew up always speaking Spanish, it is my first language. I can easily read, write and understand it. I am so thankful that my parents taught me the importance of knowing the language as that hasn't been a struggle for me. I always felt really connected to my Mexican culture. I love the food and traditions. At times however, it felt as if I wasn't "Mexican" enough, but at the same time I was. I don't like spicy foods, I've never been to Mexico, I don't feel like I "look" or "act" Mexican enough. I'm pretty pale, so people never assumed that was my ethnicity. Yet again, I always preferred to listen to Spanish music, I grew up watching classic Mexican movies/shows, my favorite team is from the Mexican league soccer team, I love banda and dancing. So, Who am I? With this class, I have learned that I am not the only one that has felt this sense of confusion and differentiation, but it has helped me know that everyone is different in their own way, which brings in the term "Latinx," which is inclusive and has allowed many that feel this way, still connect with their culture.



Vyelka Ulloa-Gonzalez



La Cultura

I love my culture. Everything about it I love and wouldn't change it for anything. The people, the country, the traditions, the history, the food, the religion etc. This class has taught me how photography and art help capture the beauty of the Latinx culture/community. It has also taught me the importance of embracing your culture and roots. Art and photography can symbolize and transmit messages, it is much more than a simple image. While reading the textbook and looking at different artwork from Latinx artists, I really felt that sense of connection and empowerment. It really made me reflect on where I come from and honor everything about it. The Latinx culture has shown me the importance of love, family and union.



Vyelka Ulloa-Gonzalez



Past vs Present

Some of the goals of the Latinx Civil Rights movements were to show the struggle of people who come from the same community and demand change, it was also to show racial injustice, and most importantly it was to bring to light how protests and strikes can bring change and to show how powerful one's voice can be.

A lot of Latinx communities faced police brutality, racial discrimination, education struggles, farm workers faced struggles at work, unfair pay. Photos taken during the Latinx Civil and Labor rights were important because they worked as documentation of what was happening. They were published and made accessible to the public to show what was going on and they truly showed everything, raw images, emotions and struggles. They helped show who was behind these movements and how fierce and powerful they were.

I compared the Delano Grape strike with the Farmworkers and Labor advocates urging Gov. Newsom to sign a bill because both involve farmworkers and both happen to be from Delano to Sacramento. The Delano strikes were intended to raise hourly wages from 1.25 to 1.40 as well as increase the piece rate. The farmworkers and labor advocates strike was to get Gov. Newsome to sign a bill to let farmworkers vote from home for union elections. Photography similarities between these two movements are that they were able to be published to newspapers and spread the word and they were able to capture the faces of fierce individuals who stood up for what they wanted and fought for their labor rights and the rights of other farmworkers.



Farmworkers and labor advocates march in Fresno, urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign a union vote-by-mail bill, on March 31, 2022.



Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee members picketing in front of Filipino Community Hall as part of the Delano Grape Strike on September 24, 1965.

Sources:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/workers-united-the-delano-grape-strike-and-boycott.htm>

Farmworkers to march, mental health workers to strike, August 3, 2022.

Bio of Photographer

Delilah Montoya



Delilah Montoya was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1955. She resided in Houston, Texas, New Mexico and Nebraska. She was always moving due to the fact that she wanted her photography to evolve. She moved to New Mexico because her mother was born there and she moved back there to reconnect with her roots. She wanted to study her Chicana culture and photograph it. Montoya was known for expressing issues of identity through Chicana Ideology. Although she didn't like to depend on certain themes in her works she often went after something she had already done previously, some of those themes she photographed were characteristics of Roman Catholicism, chicanismo, contemporary casta portraiture, and photographing the community. Montoya had a Guadalupe on Skin series which came to be very successful and beautiful. She put her photographs in many galleries, and had some of her works purchased, putting them in permanent locations.

Sources:

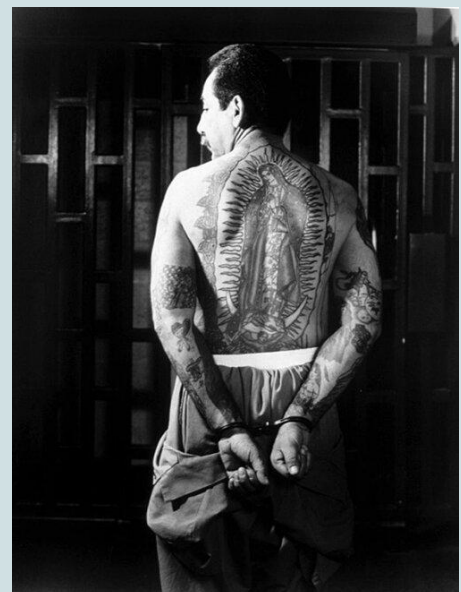
Pages: 90-93. Ferrer, Elizabeth. *Latinx Photography in the United States : a Visual History*. University of Washington Press, 2021.

Sagrado Corazon Sacred Heart: An Interview with Delilah Montoya by Hannah Cerne, March 24, 2024.

Link: <https://artmuseum.unm.edu/interview-delilah-montoya/>



Amparo Vega



What is Latinx?

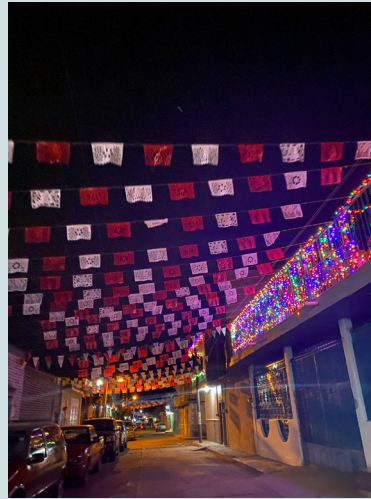
Latinx means to me, a person or someone who speaks Spanish and identifies with a group of minority who faces struggles and obstacles in everyday life. Latinx is also inclusive towards everyone and is gender neutral, it leaves no one out. Latinx is strong, beautiful and powerful.



A mural created by Rosalia Torres-Weiner in 2016 for the Gateways/Portales exhibition at the Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, DC.

Growing up I couldn't identify as Mexican because they would tell me I wasn't Mexican enough to be called that. "Tu no naciste en México, tu no eres Mexicana". They didn't allow me to be called Mexican because I was too pale, didn't eat Chile, and because I couldn't speak Spanish correctly etc. That led me to believe that I wasn't Mexicana so I also didn't call myself Mexican American because it didn't feel right and felt like an insult to my heritage. But Latinx felt right, it never made me feel like I needed to meet certain standards.

What if...



What if I wasn't born in the U.S.
What if my dad never left his home, su casita de adobe
What if my dad didn't have to leave his motherland to help his mom out
My dad was a 14 year old boy
Had he not came here I would've never been born
He wouldn't have met my mom
I wouldn't exist
I wouldn't have the privilege of an education
The privilege to live in a safe country
Maybe had he not left, he would be happy to be home
It was a sacrifice and it was a big one
I will make the sacrifice be worth it
I will make his hard years of hard labor be worth it
I will make my dad proud
I will set a reputation to our last name
Thank you dad for coming over to the U.S.
Crossing the border, those three nights you slept in the desert
Those three nights where you barely survived off food
Gracias Apá



What Is LatinX?

LatinX is a movement and a push for acceptance and pride of ones culture. Like in the past many fought and were proud of the term Chicano, LatinX is a newer term and more inclusive with it representing more cultures and people of all identity. Growing up as a kid from Salvadoran decent I felt like whenever I heard the term Chicano or Latino always people of Mexican decent came to mind. With there being much more advancement and many more cultures coming to light sharing their cultures throughout the media and the world the term LatinX feels more welcoming as well as more well versed with it representing more cultures than the prominent Mexican one.



LatinX Artist: John M Valadez



Textbook:

Pages: 67-69. Ferrer, Elizabeth. *Latinx Photography in the United States: a Visual History*. University of Washington Press, 2021.

Other Sources:

John Valadez Interviewed By Karen Mary Davalos
December 2007

<https://www.chicano.ucla.edu/files/10Valadez.pdf>

John M Valadez <https://johnvaladezart.com/>

In Studio with Artist John Valadez by Plaza de la Raza <https://johnvaladezart.com/>



Valadez is a Mexican American Artist

born in 1951 in Los Angeles California which is where his work takes place. Valadez identifies as a chicano and that what he always wanted to be growing up that's why in his art work he is always showing the chicano culture. Growing up Valadez had a stuttering problem which made it hard for him to communicate himself so through art he found that he could express himself. Valadez's is known for his photos but he would also paint murals and portraits.

Valadez's work was really simplistic and straight to the point, during his time everybody was painting cholos and trying to portray that hard and aggressive style. Valadez said his intent wasn't to be like everybody else he wanted to show people who they really were and portray the chicano life from day to day which is why his work involves a lot of photographs. He says he would walk around and spot people and ask for photo and it would show who they really were day to day and not tryna rep themselves as something else for the media due to many of the people he photographed just living their day life and being care free of the media.

Kevin V



My name is Kevin Velasquez I was born here in Santa Cruz, Ca but both my parents come from Sonsonate, El Salvador. Growing up being the first born and coming from migrant parents we had to learn things along the way. Throughout school I did pretty well and pride myself on that due to my parents being spanish speakers only, on my work there wasn't much they could help me with. However at home I was well taught in spanish and I have pretty strong accent when speaking spanish. With there not being many Salvadorans growing up I saw myself fitting in with other culutures and picking things up from Mexican and American cultures. I call myself a latino and I pride myself in that, growing up with many kids in the same situation I was always thankful to be born in the States and having the oppurtinities i've had. I'm also thankful for my Salvadoran Culture being excited and curious to find out more about it. Over the summer I went to El Salvador for the first time and it was an eye opener such a beautiful place, I'm intrigued to learn more about my culture as well as see where my parents grew up and what they gave up to come here.



Kevin V



**Loch Lomond,
Felton CA**



**Bay Bridge,
San
Francisco
CA**

Cerro Verde, El Salvador



Lago Coatepeque, El Salvador



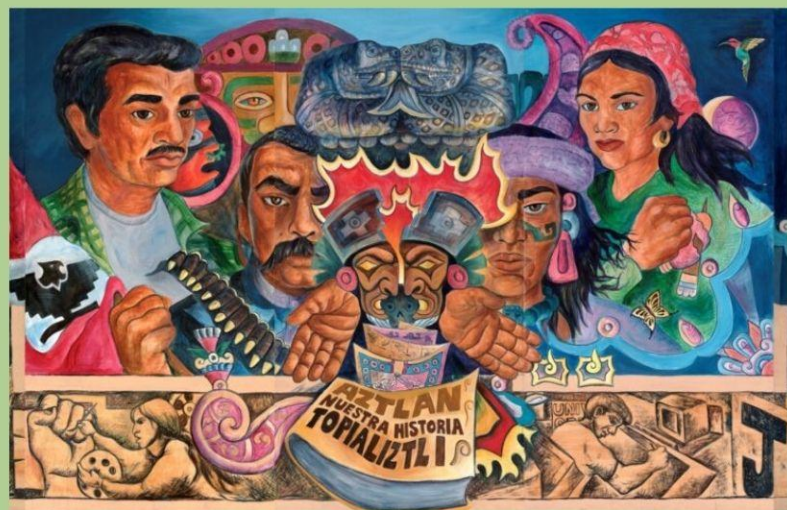
LatinX



To me, Latinx is a gender-neutral term that fosters inclusion and representation for everyone within the Latin American community. My parents are both from Jalisco, Mexico, so I've always identified as Latina or Mexican American. However, I sometimes feel like "I'm 'ni de aquí ni de allá'" (neither from here nor there). I don't feel fully Mexican, partly because I'm not fluent in reading and writing Spanish, and I don't like certain traditional Mexican foods. On the other hand, I don't always feel American enough either. The term 'Latinx' helps me embrace my Latin American heritage in its entirety, offering a sense of inclusion and representation that bridges the gap between my Mexican roots and American identity.

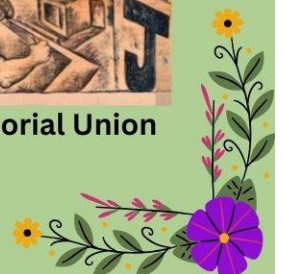


By:Andrea Arroyo



Aztlan Topializtli Mural located in Erb Memorial Union

Dayana Villalpando



Bio-Christina Fernandez

Christina Fernandez was born in 1965 in Los Angeles, California, and identifies as Mexican American and Chicana. Her work explores themes of migration, identity, labor, and gender, reflecting the challenges people face in their daily lives. One of her biggest influences was her great-grandmother, who migrated from Mexico to the United States.

Fernandez was also deeply influenced by her father, who practiced photography as a hobby, as well as her experiences during the Chicano Movement and her role as a mother. Her works have been showcased in museums across the United States, including in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and El Paso. Fernandez's photography primarily consists of black-and-white or gray-toned portraits, as well as landscapes and urban/suburban scenes.



Her first camera was a 35mm Film Camera from her dad.



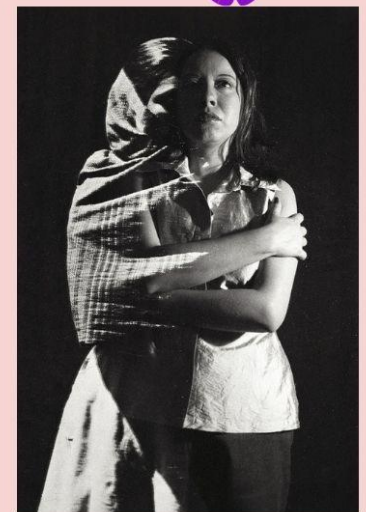
Artwork-



Untitled (The series *Maria's Great Expedition*) from 1995-1996



Untitled (The series called *Lavanderia*), from 2002-03



Bravo (series called *Untitled Multiple Exposure*), 1999

Sources-

- [Gallery Luisotti- Christina Fernandez | Gallery Luisotti](#)
- [Media-Christina Fernandez on Making Invisible Labor Visible, National Gallery of Art Talks, April 12, 2023. Bing Videos](#)
- [Amon Carter Museum of American Art- Q&A with photographer Christina Fernandez | Amon Carter Museum of American Art](#)
- [Moma- Christina Fernandez | MoMA](#)

Dayana Villalpando

Chasing a Better Life: Fears of Immigrants in the U.S.



In order to migrate to the United States, many people must endure a dangerous journey to reach their destination. Each migrant has different reasons for moving, whether it's to provide a better future for their children or seek more opportunities. Some are fleeing violence in their hometowns or escaping the devastation of natural disasters. The decision to migrate is never easy, as it often means leaving behind family, friends, traditions, possessions, and the home they grew up in.

Many live in constant fear of being deported and separated from their families. The conditions in detention centers are inhumane and unbearable for anyone to endure.

According to reports about ICE detention centers, "People in detention experience inhumane conditions and rights abuses that include medical neglect, preventable deaths, punitive use of solitary confinement, lack of due process, obstructed access to legal counsel, and discriminatory and racist treatment." Many immigrants have been detained simply for lacking proper documentation, even though they've lived in the U.S. for years and committed no crimes. Additionally, immigrant children are often separated from their parents when crossing the border. Children are sent to juvenile centers while their parents are deported and prosecuted—this policy is designed to discourage people from coming to the U.S.

Many people close to me, including family members, have been unable to fix their documentation, even though they've lived in the U.S. for a long time and have committed no crimes. For them, the only option is to wait until their children turn twenty-one before they can begin the process of fixing their legal status. They live in constant fear of deportation, despite having come to the U.S. in search of better opportunities for their families. Something needs to be done to protect them and ensure their children do not have to live in fear of their parents being deported.

Dayana Villalpando



Credit: Lucy Westcott/IPS

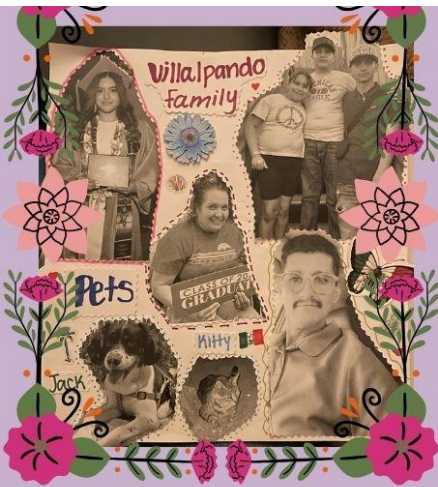


(Reuters / Jason Redmond)



Sources-

- <https://latino.si.edu/exhibitions/presente/immigration-stories>
- <https://www.ncfr.org/ncfr-report/summer-2020/shifting-burden-resilience-working-partnership-latinx-immigrant-families-systems-change>
- <https://immigrantjustice.org/research-items/policy-brief-snapshot-ice-detention-inhumane-conditions-and-alarming-expansion>
- <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/16/1206135260/u-s-government-agrees-to-settlement-with-migrant-families-separated-at-the-border>



The Importance of Photographs

Photographs do more than capture memories—they tell a story and allow us to pass down our family history to future generations. Through them, we can share our experiences so others can understand and appreciate our journey.

I included pictures of my family because they are my biggest support system and have always been there for me. As the oldest sibling, my brothers and sisters mean the world to me. We do so much together, and I support them in their extracurricular activities. My parents have made countless sacrifices for our family, including leaving all their loved ones behind in Mexico to give us a better future here in the United States. I know it must have been a difficult decision, but they did it with the hope of providing my siblings and me with opportunities they never had.

The photos of our loved ones who have passed away are precious to us. They help us remember them and keep them close to our hearts. My grandfather, on my dad's side, passed away before my siblings and I were born, so this photo allows us to see what he looked like and keeps his memory alive through the stories our dad shares about him. The photo of my great-grandmother, on my mom's side, is equally important. She lived in Mexico, and I was fortunate enough to visit her when I was younger, before she passed away. Her photograph helps keep her memory alive and always reminds us of her.



About the Contributor-

Dayana Villalpando is a first-generation college student, born in Arizona and raised in Watsonville. Family plays a central role in her life, and she cherishes the time spent with them. I am also passionate about volunteering, dedicating my time to the Second Harvest Food Bank and my local church. In my free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors, whether it's going on bike rides or taking walks. I also like listening to music and podcasts.



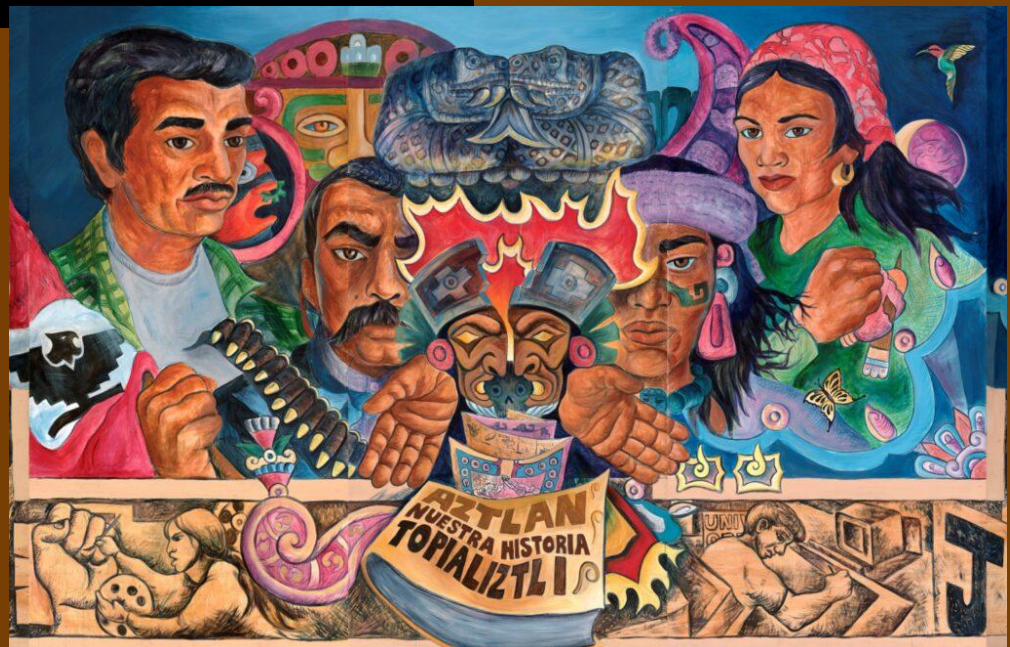
Latinx:

A gender-neutral identity for Spanish descendants. A more recent identity for the Spanish community that is all inclusive. A breakthrough in uniting Latino, Chicano, Indigenous peoples and communities.

Why is it important?

It's important to know about cultural changes happening within our communities. This generation of Latinx are paving a new road for Latinx where all male, female, x are being heard, celebrated, shared. Below are links to where I got these two images from. The second link is for The Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) at University of Oregon, it has some good information about Latino/a/x studies if interested.

[GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY](#)
[LATINX STUDIES CELEBRATION - CLLAS](#)





Here is an article that I found on Latinx artists and photographers. I found this article to be a good resource for finding new artists and providing great examples of their work. If you are interested in finding new artists whose cause is to bring Chicano culture to light, to be talked about more, and educate the people of their history and connect people to their roots. Please check out the link to article below.

[The Latina Curators Remaking the American Photography Canon](#)

Photo on top-right of Page 2:

Delilah Montoya, *La Guadalupeana*, Williams College, 1998

Photo on bottom-left of Page 2:

Max Aguilera-Hellweg, *The Lovers; river edge, the Rio Grande, Mexican side, somewhere east of Piedras Negras*, 1989

Photo on bottom-right of Page 2:

Perla de León, *My Playground*, 1980
Courtesy the Smithsonian American Art Museum



A Personal Story

I just wanted to share a little about my experience as a Chicana in California, specifically Santa Cruz County.

It wasn't easy identifying myself. Chicana, Latina, or Mexican American like my grandma would say. I just listened to her and would say "Mexican- American". Yet, it didn't sound right, I wouldn't think it fit the true description of my blood. For one I'm 1/16th Lakota, from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Mexican- American for the rest of me? That's it?

Second, I don't speak Spanish, or Lakota but at least where I come from almost all around me speak Spanish. My grandma spoke it but didn't teach my mom and in turn I never learned.

My point of this is that being confident in knowing myself wasn't always the case. I guess you can say that's why I never felt courage to learn the languages, seek out information on current issues pressing our people, or feel the importance of these things either.

But, having spaces where; Latinos, Chicanos, Indigenous people, can express themselves as we are, as the culture, la raza, makes taking classes like this one enjoyable. Thanks to this class I feel more connected to my culture. I feel more confident teaching my child(ren) about their culture, family, roots.

Lastly, I feel proud after seeing the artistic contributions Latinos, Chicanos, have provided in our history. Like the ones I've provided in my zine.



On Page 3 and 4 are photographs from Latina/x photographers, Genesis Baez and Jenny Calivas. Below are all the links to where I grabbed my research from. The first is an interview with Genesis Baez where she speaks on her origins, life as a photographer, her inspirations. The second is an article/ exhibit online, and the last is an exhibit that will open Dec 9- Mar 7, 2025.

[HTTPS://WWW.ARTOFCHOICE.CO/EXPERIENCE-MOVEMENT-AND-SOUND-THROUGH-GENESIS-BAEZS-PHOTOGRAPHS/](https://www.artofchoice.co/experience-movement-and-sound-through-genesis-baezs-photographs/)

[PHOTO EXHIBITION INTERVIEW: SILT OF EACH OTHER](#)

[YOU BELONG HERE: PLACE, PEOPLE, AND PURPOSE IN LATINX PHOTOGRAPHY - CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART](#)







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